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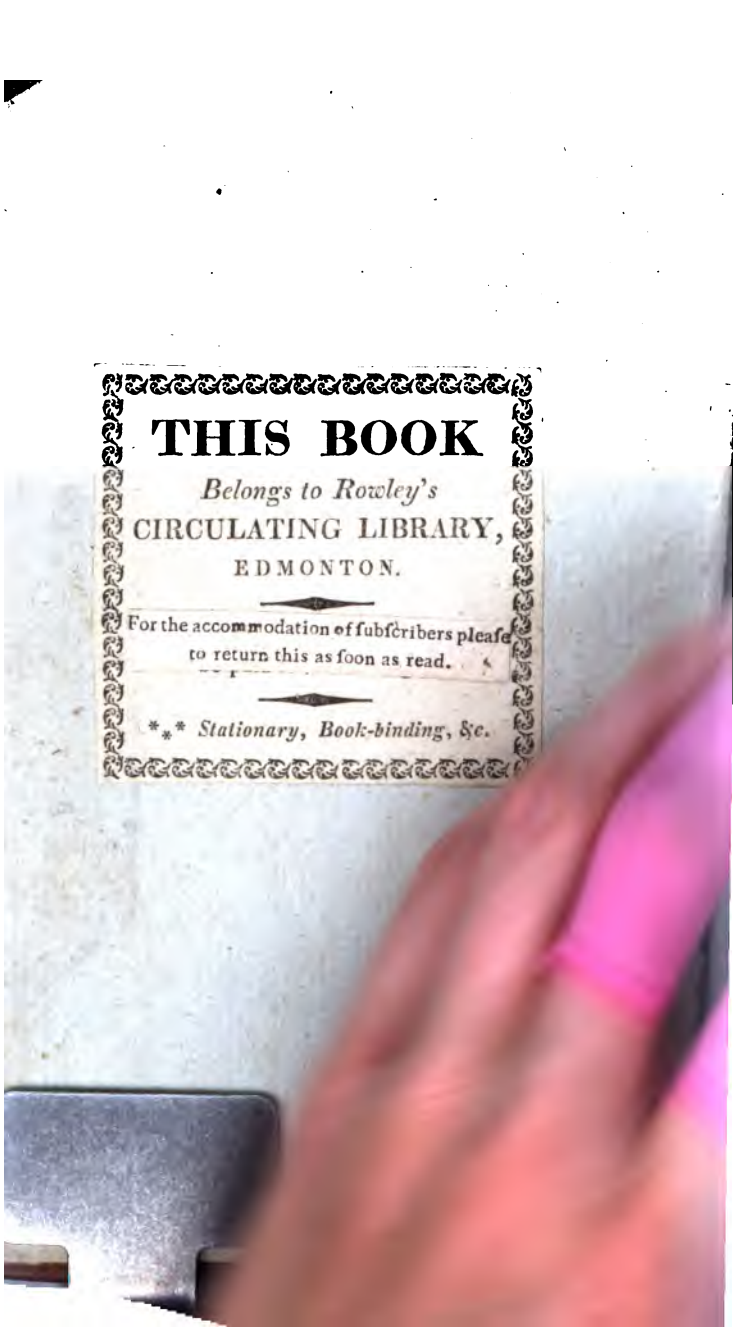
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THE

MINSTREL;

OR,

ANECDOTES

OF

DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES

IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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MINSTREL.

CHAP. IX.

AS the diſtance was very conſiderable from Wakefield to Grafton; and as at that time of the year, for it was Chriſtmas-day when the journey was begun, the roads were very bad, ſo that ſhe could not reaſonably expect the young man's return in many days, yet, when the firſt week was paſt, Eleanor eagerly looked out for him, and longed for the intelli-

gence he might probably bring, that all her desires had been complied with. In the interim, Philip was nearly recovered, and began to be earnest to rejoin the heir of York, who, they were informed, had gained a victory over the detachment of Margaret's army, which had been sent against him, and was upon his march to London.

One evening as they were sitting and conversing together, their host entered; "Will your honours pardon me," said he, "if I introduce an ancient friend of "mine into this apartment? He is come "many a weary mile to see me; the "night is bitter cold, and the wind whis-"tles bleak through the hole of the door "in the other room."

"We cannot object to the admittance "of any friend of your's, my kind host; "but are we not in danger of being be-"trayed by him?"

"He

" He is a ſoldier, pleaſe your hon
" that is to ſay, he *was* one, for his
" firmities, God help him! have diſal
" him from ſervice, and a brave ſol
" will not betray even an enemy. I
" haps he may entertain you, for it is
" joy of his heart to tell of the battle
" hath been in; he was an archer, pl
" your honour, to our glorious He
" in France, and as brave a lad as e
" drew a bow."

" Let him come in," ſaid Philip,
" long to take the veteran by the han

The leech withdrew, and in hal
minute returned with a tall muſc
figure; a large ſcar ſeamed one eyebr
and part of the forehead; another
acroſs his cheek; he had a wooden l
and one arm: he bowed with much civ
ty, but without mean adulation. " I t
" your honour's pardon," ſaid he, " I

" my friend Simon would have me
" come in."

" Make no apologies," ſaid Philip,
" a brave ſoldier is a companion for
" kings; the greateſt kings would make
" a ſorry figure without them; they are
" the important cyphers that give conſe-
" quence to the unit. Give me your
" hand, fellow ſoldier, I revere the ho-
" neſt veteran, and when you have warm-
" ed and refreſhed yourſelf, you will, I
" hope, give us the hiſtory of thoſe limbs
" which you have ſacrificed to your
" country."

" Your honour is kind, very kind;—
" oh! you remind me of my gracious
" maſter, the moſt affable, the moſt
" courteous of men, as well as the greateſt
" of kings—it were a pleaſure to bleed
" in his ſervice. Ah! your honour,
" mine were *honeſt* ſcars, got in fighting
" with the natural enemies of my coun-
" try;

"try; not ſuch as men get in theſe un-
"happy times, when brother wounds
"brother, and the ſon lifts his hand
"againſt the father.—Here's your ho-
"nour's good health, and may the diſ-
"turbers of the public peace meet the
"fate they ſo richly deſerve!"

He took a hearty pull at the brown can, which, with ſome proviſions, the leech had placed before him: he ate a large luncheon of bread and cheeſe, and ſat himſelf down on a ſtool on one ſide of the fire-place.

"You would not then, if you had
"your limbs, take any part in theſe
"preſent wars?" ſaid Philip.

"Oh!" he exclaimed, ſtarting up, and brandiſhing his ſtaff like a lance, "I would ſacrifice the remainder of my "limbs, I would ſhed the laſt drop of "my blood in defence of the ſon of my

"king; and yet," added he, with a sigh, and dropping his weapon, "the thought "of *whom* I was fighting against, woul "rob my arm of half its force. Englishmen "against Englishmen! unnatural war! "to think that for every man that I kil-"led, I made a widow of a neighbour's "wife! it would unnerve me, and the "arrow would drop short. The duke "of York—but he hath met with his "deserts, I had the comfort of seeing "his head upon the city gates."

Philip frowned, he bit his lip; a supplicating look from Eleanor repelled his rising ill humour. "But if the "crown was his *right*, my friend," said he to the soldier, "would you not "have him assert that right?"

"Suppose it *was*," he replied, "and "I am no judge of these matters, it *may* "be so for aught I know; would it not "have been more generous to have

"waved

" waved that right, than to acquire what
" was his due by the blood of thouſands?
" It muſt be a very ſelfiſh temper, that
" will ſeek honour and dignity for itſelf,
" at ſuch an expence of happineſs to
" others; and unworthy is he to reign
" over a people, ſay I, who diſplays ſo
" little regard for their welfare.

" Why now, there was his uncle Morti-
" mer, your honour, the earl of March,
" was a very different ſort of a man, and
" acted in a different manner when the
" father of this duke of York, the earl
" of Cambridge, who married Morti-
" mer's ſiſter, ungratefully plotted againſt
" the king, and would have ſet up his
" brother-in-law as the true and lawful
" heir to the crown: that truly noble
" and royal ſpirit, as ſoon as he heard of
" the deſign, informed the king of it.
" You, ſaid he, are my ſovereign; I have
" ſworn allegiance to you, I will keep my
" oath inviolate till death, and never will

"fail in paying the duty and obedience
"of a ſubject. This was a *man*, your
"honour, one of generoſity and con-
"ſcience; for he would not aſſert a
"title which would involve his country
"in a civil war; and he ſhrunk from
"perjury. Yet have I heard this very
"man, for this very action, called fooliſh
"and ſpiritleſs: but it is a corrupt age,
"ſay I, that deems a regard for oaths a
"ſymptom of folly, and a deſire to pre-
"ſerve the peace of a nation, want of
"ſpirit. His nephew had none of that
"folly about him."

"Were you with our glorious Henry,"
ſaid Eleanor, interrupting him, fearful
he ſhould ſay ſomething which would
enrage Philip, "were you with him in
"his firſt expedition to France?"

"I was, ſir."

"You muſt have been very young
"then."

"I was

"I was twenty-one that day the king "set sail from Southampton, and that "was forty-four years ago the fif- "teenth of last August.—Oh! your ho- "nour," added he, turning to Philip, for Philip's countenance bespoke the soldier; the fine features of our heroine did not please him half so well.—"Oh, "what a glorious sight was seen on that "day!—the sea covered with a fleet of "fifteen hundred ships; methinks I see "them now," said he, rising from his three-legged stool, his cheeks flushed and his eyes sparkling,—"a moving "city dancing on the waves, the silken "streamers playing in the breeze, and "the broad sails swelling with the wind, "and carrying us all to Harfleur."

"You must have had a vast force on "board for such an undertaking as the "conquering a kingdom," said Philip.

"We had on board this fleet, ſir,
"near fifty thouſand honeſt hearts. I
"was——my God! what a difference
"have forty-four years made!—I was
"a foot-archer. I remember when we
"were juſt ſetting ſail, a ſad accident
"happened; one ſhip, by ſome miſma-
"nagement, was ſet on fire, and the
"flames communicated to thoſe neareſt,
"ſo that three of the largeſt ſhips were
"burnt: when they were nearly con-
"ſumed, the keel of the firſt ſhip burſt
"from under water with ſuch a ſudden
"and tremendous flame, as ſurpriſed
"all that ſaw it; and ſome people look-
"ed upon it as an ill omen, and would
"have perſuaded the king from the ex-
"pedition, but he had a ſoul above
"ſuch fooliſh fancies; he laughed at
"them and ſaid, the wind which then
"ſprang up was a propitious omen,
"which he accepted, and would follow
"where it led him; he did ſo, and a
"few hours brought our gallant fleet to

"the

" the mouth of the Seine, where we an-
" chored without oppoſition. When our
" gracious Henry touched the ſhore, he
" kneeled on the beach, in view of the
" whole fleet and army, and with hands
" and eyes uplifted, implored the God
" of battles to proſper him.—Oh, it was
" a lovely and affecting ſight!"

" You ſoon conquered Harfleur."

" We did ſo, your honour; but it
" was at the expence of labour, health,
" and life. We were five weeks be-
" fore it, but they were five the moſt
" terrible weeks I ever knew: we were
" encamped near the ſea, the ſalt air of
" which impregnated our proviſions in
" ſuch a manner, as to affect the conſti-
" tutions of the whole army: to add to
" the misfortune, there is a river, your
" honour, runs through Harfleur, and
" the people there, by letting down
" the ſluices, ſtopt the ſtream, and flood-

"ed our whole camp; so that, what with "the damp of the fresh water, and the salt "air from the sea, a general dysentery "seized the army: but few soldiers were "able to work; the labour, therefore, "of those few, in the siege of so large a "place, was incessant, and inconceivably "fatiguing; more than two thousand of "my brave companions died, and a "great many people of quality."

"Was it a place of much strength?"

"Very strong, your honour, and very "bravely defended by the governor, "lord Estouteville; he had sent re-"peatedly to the dauphin for assistance, "who promised succours, but sent none. "We had made a large breach in the walls, "and the governor was sensible he could "not hold out; he therefore sent to our "king;—I remember it was on a Thurs-"day, near midnight, to capitulate. The "king insisted upon their surrendering at

"dis-

" diſcretion, the governor requeſted a ceſ-
" ſation of arms till the following Sunday,
" with leave to acquaint the conſtable
" d'Albert with his ſituation, in which
" time, if he was not relieved, he pro-
" miſed to ſurrender to the king's mercy;
" and as a proof that he meant to be true
" to his engagement, he offered to ſwear
" ſo to do upon Chriſt's body in the ſa-
" crament, and to give hoſtages of ſome
" people of prime conſequence.

" Our gracious Henry accepted theſe
" propoſals, conſented that the meſſen-
" gers to the French army ſhould paſs
" through our lines, and ſent my lord
" biſhop of Bangor to take the gover-
" nor's oath, and receive the hoſtages.
" I, your honour, was one of the ſol-
" diers who attended him, and I aſſure
" you, it was a very ſolemn ſight, for
" the biſhop marched to the walls of Har-
" fleur in proceſſion, dreſſed in his grand
" robes; ten ſquires walked before him

" with

"with lighted torches; behind him,
"two and two, walked twenty-two
"chaplains, in their ſurplices, and copes
"of ſilk, and before each chaplain a
"ſquire with a torch; all the ſquires
"wore the ſame livery; an hundred
"ſoldiers followed, the gates were open-
"ed, and we all entered.

"It was a piteous ſight, your honour,
"to ſee the women and children weep-
"ing; even the brave ſoldiers were low-
"ſpirited at the notion of every thing
"being delivered up to the mercy of the
"conqueror—their dear wives—their
"precious little ones—their *all* of happi-
"neſs—poor creatures! they did not
"know the kind and good Henry. I,
"and my companions comforted them:
"be of good cheer, ſaid we, our royal
"maſter is the moſt merciful and beſt of
"kings; you would receive no injury
"from him were you his enemies, but
"he looks upon you as his ſubjects: you

"will

" will not then find from us the ſame
" barbarity which your countrymen prac-
" tiſed at Soiſſons, where the town was
" plundered, the churches robbed, and
" men and children murdered, and the
" women ill-treated—no, he will not per-
" mit any ſuch wicked doings, neither
" will he deſolate a country which he
" looks upon as belonging to his own
" dominions. Our words put them in
" good heart, your honour. In the
" morning the biſhop returned in the
" ſame proceſſion, and hoſtages were led
" before him; they were entertained very
" ſumptuouſly in the king's tent, though
" his highneſs was not there, and they
" were then given in charge to the prin-
" cipal officers, with the ſtricteſt or-
" ders that they ſhould receive honoura-
" ble treatment.

" Well, your honour, lord Hacque-
" ville returned with intelligence from
" the French general, that Harfleur
" could

" could not be relieved within the time;
" ſo on the Sunday, at midnight, five
" hundred ſoldiers marched from the
" camp; the good biſhop of Bangor, and
" a great many officers followed. The
" gates were not opened, but the gover-
" nor received us by ladders thrown over
" the walls; and when we entered, we
" opened the gates, and admitted the bi-
" ſhop and the officers. In the morning,
" the duke of Clarence, the king's bro-
" ther, entered in great ſtate; he offered
" the people the oath of allegiance to our
" king; and thoſe who refuſed to take it
" were to be ſent priſoners to England.
" The clergy of all ſorts, and the women,
" were permitted to leave the town in their
" beſt cloaths, with as many things as they
" could carry without making a bundle,
" and five ſols a piece were given them
" all for their preſent maintenance. There
" were near fifteen hundred women quit-
" ted the place, ſome of them very hand-
" ſome indeed, but we dared not touch

" one

"one of them, ſo ſtrict were our orders:
"one girl.—I never from that time ſet my
"eyes on ſo beautiful a creature. I will
"own to your honour, that I took ſome
"pains to perſuade her to follow a ſol-
"dier's fortune; ſhe wept, the dear ſoul
"wept when ſhe refuſed me—but her mo-
"ther's tears were more prevailing than
"my arguments; ſhe was a ſweet crea-
"ture, almoſt fifty years have not worn
"her image from my heart.

"Well, your honour," continued he, after a minute's pauſe, and having cleared his voice, which was a little impeded by ſomething in his throat, "when they were "all out of town we carried them wine "and refreſhments; my little girl was "not forgotten. They were then ſafely "conveyed to Liſlebonne, but I was not "on that ſervice, though I very much "wiſhed it." Again he hemmed. "The "garriſon and officers were made priſon-"ers of war, and then the town was

"given

"given up to the plunder of the ſoldiers,
"with ſtrict orders to refrain from any
"cruelty or outrage. When the king
"entered Harfleur, he diſmounted from
"his horſe at the gate, his ſhoes were ta-
"ken off, and he walked barefoot with
"the devotion of a ſaint to the church
"of St. Martin, where he gave glory to
"God for this ſucceſs of his arms.

"Our next action, your honour,"—his ſmiles and animation returned,—"our "next action was the glorious battle of "Agincourt—your honour hath heard of "*that.*"

"I have, my friend—what Engliſh-"man hath not heard of that field, where "his countrymen reaped ſuch immortal "honour? Were you in it?"

"It is the pride and glory of my heart "that I was not only *in it*, but had the "ſs of being in the *van* of the "glorious

" glorious line. If your honours would
" not think me too tedious, I would tell
" you all about it."

" If it would not fatigue you."

" *Fatigue me!* it would do me good—
" it is far better for my ſpirits than my
" friend Simon's nappy ale, and that is
" excellent—here's your honour's good
" health. After the king had regulated
" the affairs of Harfleur, repaired the for-
" tifications, and placed in the garriſon
" two thouſand ſelect men, he called a
" council of war, wherein it was deter-
" mined, that as the ſeaſon was ſo far ad-
" vanced, and as a great many men had
" loſt their lives at the ſiege, and more
" periſhed, and were daily periſhing by
" diſeaſe, it was moſt adviſable to
" put an end to the campaign, ſend the
" ſick and wounded to England, with
" part of the army, and place the reſt in
" ſafe and convenient winter quarters, for

" which

"which Harfleur was deemed improper;
"its situation being unwholesome, and
"provisions and forage scarce, it was
"determined therefore to leave it with the
"garrison only, and put the troops into
"Calais and the villages round:" "But,
"said the gallant Henry, the French shall
"not say that after taking one town, we
"silently drew off in fear of their army they
"are assembling against us; we will not
"go by sea to Calais, but march boldly
"through their country; we will pass
"the Somme, where it was once forded
"by my great grand-father, Edward the
"third; and we will, my boys, if it
"pleases God to bless us, rival that great
"warrior's fame.

"Accordingly, part of the army, seve-
"ral sick noblemen, with the noblemen
"and governor of Harfleur, and the sick
"and wounded soldiers, were sent to
"England under the command of the
"duke of Clarence. Fifteen days after

"the

" the ſuccour of Harfleur, we began
" our march from thence to Calais, and
" a perilous march it was; for the roads,
" from a vaſt quantity of rain, were deep
" and fatiguing; a multitude of ſmall
" rivers croſſed the country, the bridges
" over which were all broken; the cauſe-
" ways over the marſhes were deſtroyed;
" the country ſo waſted, that very little
" proviſions and forage could be had;
" every village was up in arms againſt us;
" d'Albert, with a choice body of troops,
" watched our motions, harraſſed our
" march, and cut off our ſtragglers, and
" detached parties; and that fatal diſeaſe
" ſtill purſued us, and carried off every
" day ſome of my brave companions.

" Amidſt theſe difficulties we ſhould have
" been unable to ſtruggle through under
" any other leader; but the ſmiles of our
" gracious king cheered our hearts, and
" his wiſe example animated us; for he
" partook every hardſhip, and even aſ-

" ſiſted

" lifted us in our moſt laborious exer-
" ciſes, and with him we went cheerfully
" and boldly forwards.

" We began our march along the
" coaſt of Normandy; but that narrow
" track being incapable of ſupplying our
" army with proviſions, we took our
" courſe farther up the country, the king
" prohibiting us, upon pain of death,
" from committing any violence on the
" inhabitants.—I come not, ſaid that
" good prince, to make war on women,
" and children, and defenceleſs country
" people, but upon armed enemies:—
" and I remember a ſoldier was im-
" mediately hanged that ſtole a chalice
" from a church, and the king would not
" move his enſigns till that juſtice was
" executed. No violence was uſed but
" for contributions for proviſions, and
" very little was neceſſary for that pur-
" poſe; for our orderly behaviour ſo plea-
" ſed the country people, that they very

" readily furniſhed us with what they had,
" and even entertained us at their houſes.

" But when we reached the ford of the
" Somme at Blanquetague, which Ed-
" ward the third had paſſed when he
" gained the great victory of Creſſy, to
" our great diſappointment we found the
" French had rendered the paſſage im-
" practicable, by driving ſharp ſtakes into
" the river; and there was alſo a ſtrong
" body of forces poſted on the other ſide.
" Any other general would have been
" alarmed at thoſe difficulties and dangers
" which were at every ſtep increaſing,
" and would have returned back to Har-
" fleur whilſt it was yet in his power,
" from whence we might have been eaſily
" tranſported to Calais: but our daunt-
" leſs commander panted to emulate the
" glories of his grandfather, and the more
" of danger the greater was the ſpur to
" encounter it; and animated by our be-
" loved monarch, there was not a ſoldier

" in

"in the army whose heart did not burn
"with the same ardour. We proceeded
"higher up the river to the bridge at
"Pont de Remy, which we found too
"strongly guarded to attempt; and at the
"bridge of St. Maxence, a body of thirty
"thousand men were drawn up on the
"other side in order of battle; but con-
"tent with preventing our passing the
"bridge, they drew back, and suffered
"our handful of men to go quietly on.
"We passed Amiens, and encamped at
"Boane for two days, where the people
"were making wine: we were, as your
"honours may well imagine, very gree-
"dy of the rich juice, but were not suf-
"fered to indulge in it: this we were
"inclined to think a hardship, and one of
"the officers spoke to the king about it,
"saying, that it might be convenient
"for the good fellows to fill their bot-
"tles; to which the king laughing,
"answered,—That they had his leav
"to fill their bottles, but he strictly

" prohibited them from making bottles
" of their bellies. Near this village
" was a little caſtle on a rock, the cap-
" tain of which ſent eight great baſkets
" of bread to the king, (an acceptable
" preſent) for the country was ſo de-
" ſolate, we were very ſcantily ſupplied
" with that article; and, indeed, except
" by an indulgence in new wine, there was
" very little danger of our ſurfeiting with
" an over-abundance in any thing. At
" Corbie, the people of Picardy defended
" a narrow paſs very valiantly, againſt the
" foremoſt of our troops, and took the
" ſtandard of Guyenne, which was very
" bravely retrieved by a maſter Bromley,
" a Staffordſhire gentleman.

" Between Corbie and Peronne, it
" was we paſſed the Somme, upon a
" bridge made of ladders, and the timbers
" of ſome houſes, which were pulled
" down on purpoſe, and laid acroſs the
" river: the king himſelf aſſiſted at the

" work, as well as the meaneſt ſoldier,
" from eight o'clock in the morning till
" afternoon; at which time, it being
" ready, the foot paſſed over firſt, and
" fixed the ſtandard; then the horſe,
" and then the rear-guard. Though it
" was dark night when all the army
" were got over, the king would not ſpend
" the night there, but marched in the
" dark till he came near Athies, where
" he lodged.

" For ſeveral following days, we
" neither heard nor ſaw any thing of
" the French army, though we marched
" through ſeveral narrow paſſes, where
" they might have ſtopped us with great
" advantage: but when we reached
" Blagny, where we had a ſmall river to
" croſs, we found a detachment very buſy
" in breaking down a bridge; we ſoon
" beat them off, and paſſed over. The
" duke of York, aſcending a very high
" hill, deſcried the country every where

" full

" full of ſoldiers, and his ſcouts informed
" him, that the army were marching in
" immenſe bodies towards Rouſeauville
" and Agincourt, places cloſe to where
" we were, and unavoidable in our route
" to Calais.

" Hearing the enemy were ſo near,
" the king imagined they had intercepted
" our march to give us immediate battle.
" —He commanded the horſemen to
" alight, and the whole army to kneel,
" and implore the Divine aſſiſtance.—
" We were then drawn up in order of
" battle, and ſo continued till ſun-ſet,
" in momentary expectation of being
" attacked: but the French, ſecure of
" us, as they ſuppoſed, marched to Agin-
" court, and there planted their ſtan-
" dards, and encamped in the open
" fields. The conſtable d'Albert was
" there with the royal ſtandard of France,
" and the army conſiſted of not leſs than
" one hundred thouſand fighting men;

" ſome have ſaid, one hundred and fifty
" thouſand. Finding the enemy not diſ-
" poſed to come to an engagement, we
" were drawn off the field, where we
" had ſtood ſo many hours, and we
" marched that night to Marſoncelles, a
" little village ſo near Agincourt, that
" the diſtance between the two armies
" was not more than three bow-ſhots.

" In the morning the king had certain
" intelligence of the immenſe forces of
" the enemy; and now he began to feel
" how very perilous was his ſituation:—
" before him, intercepting his progreſs,
" was this vaſt body of men, freſh,
" healthy, vigorous; well ſupplied with
" proviſions, and neceſſaries of every
" kind: his own army not a fifth of their
" number, and thoſe few weakened by
" ſickneſs, exhauſted by the fatigues of a
" long march, deſtitute of every accom-
" modation, and half ſtarved. To re-
" treat, was impracticable; for, with an

" army

" army behind, it would be impoſſible
" to repaſs the Somme.

" Theſe were difficulties, your honour,
" which ſeemed inſurmountable: our
" good king, unwilling to ſacrifice his
" brave fellows againſt ſuch odds, ſent
" a herald to the French general, offering
" to reſtore Harfleur, to repair all the
" damages he had done in France, and
" even engage never more to invade it,
" if he might be allowed to paſs unmo-
" leſted to Calais.

" This offer they rejected, and re-
" quired, that he and his army ſhould
" ſurrender at diſcretion; but the pro-
" poſal met with the diſdain it merited.
" Then the conſtable, the duke of Or-
" leans, and the duke of Bourbon, ſent
" each a herald, to defy the king to
" battle, leaving him to fix the time
" and place. The heralds were enter-
" tained honourably, and returned with

" marks of generosity; but the king
" sent an answer by two of his own. He
" said, That if they had wished to have
" decided the quarrel between the two
" kingdoms by a general battle, they had
" it in their own power to chuse their time
" and place, from the moment of his
" leaving Harfleur; he never, in the
" whole march, having put his troops
" into any place of strength, but always
" encamped in the open fields. That,
" circumstanced as he was at present,
" his army reduced in number, and those
" few fatigued by a long march, and
" weakened by sickness, he confessed he
" did not wish to encounter so vast a su-
" periority of fresh troops; he desired only
" to be permitted to march to Calais.
" But though he was not solicitous for an
" engagement, so neither would he refuse
" it, if offered him. Another herald then
" came from the French princes, to sig-
" nify that they would give him battle
" on the Saturday following; and the

" king

"king generously rewarded him for his
"intelligence, by a present of two hun-
"dred crowns and a rich robe.

"It was on a Monday when this mes-
"sage arrived; so that there were five
"days to prepare for the battle; and that
"time was not lost by our king. On
"many of the officers he conferred the
"honour of knighthood; to others he
"promised honours and dignities; to
"several of the knights and noblemen
"he presented, as marks of his appro-
"bation, collars studded with golden
"S.S. The common soldiers were en-
"couraged by the prospect of plun-
"dering the rich, gay Frenchmen, and
"every one was to be allowed the bene-
"fit of all the prisoners he took, the
"king only reserving to himself the
"higher orders of nobility. All the
"weapons and the armour were exa-
"mined and repaired; the archers had
"orders, each to provide himself with a

" long wooden pike, well ſharpened at
" both ends; and the king was on horſe-
" back from morning till night, buſy in
" ſeeing every thing put in order, and
" in encouraging his troops. He remind-
" ed us of the great victories gained in
" France by our forefathers: he aſſured
" us, that the enemy, though numerous,
" were moſt of them raw, and undiſci-
" plined; and that the light armed, and
" nimble archers would, when they came
" to cloſe fight, have greatly the ad-
" vantage over the moſt formidable part
" of their force, their men at arms, who,
" loaded with heavy armour, would ſoon
" be tired and out of breath.

" Theſe cheering words, and the good
" humour and affability with which they
" were ſpoken, had a wonderful effect
" upon the whole army: we deſpiſed
" the number of our enemies, forgot
" our own enfeebled ſtate, our diſeaſes,
" and our wants; and all panted for the
" hour

" hour in which we ſhould have an op-
" portunity of diſplaying our affections
" for our darling prince, and either con-
" quer for him, or glorioufly die in the
" attempt.

" The French were differently em-
" ployed. Secure of victory, they were
" ambitious to join battle before the arri-
" val of the duke of Bretagne with twelve
" thouſand men, and the lord marſhal
" of France with ſix thouſand men at
" arms, who were on their march towards
" them. They even debated whether
" the common ſoldiers ſhould ſhare the
" glory of the day, or only thoſe who
" wore gold ſpurs; and, indeed, there
" were enough of knights and noblemen
" in that great hoſt to have effected the
" purpoſe: they diſpatched meſſages to
" ſeveral cities to prepare grand re-
" joicings; they buſied their fancies in
" contriving a chariot, in which to diſ-
" play the captive king; they occupied

" all their leisure time to playing at dice
" for the prisoners; and they had even
" the insolence to send a herald to our
" king, to treat for his ransom.—Good
" God! what an effect this had upon
" the soldiers! It fired us all; and
" hand was joined in hand throughout
" the whole camp, to revenge this af-
" front to a prince we adored.

" Never, your honours, can I forget
" the night before that memorable day:
" the two camps were so near, that the
" noises made in either were heard by
" the other. It was bitter cold for the
" time of year, which was the 25th of
" October, and great fires were kindled
" in both camps: that of the French
" was filled with noise and tumult; but
" they had no warlike music, and it was
" remarked by some of their soldiers,
" that not one horse was heard to neigh.
" I have always thought that extremely
" ominous, your honour. Among us

" was

" was no hurry, no diſorder: for though
" we were weakened by illneſs, fatigue,
" and, I may ſay, hunger, for our pro-
" viſions were very ſhort, we ate nuts
" inſtead of bread, and had no other
" drink but water, yet no one thought
" of ſleep, but all, with compoſed ſpirits
" and firm reſolution, prepared for the
" morning; whilſt the cheerful and en-
" livening ſounds of our drums and
" trumpets echoed throughout the camp.
" In the middle of the night we had an
" alarm, occaſioned by the approach of
" two thouſand bacinets * and archers;
" but, after ſome few arrows ſhot at
" random, we ſoon made them retreat.

" At break of day our glorious king,
" armed all over but his head, heard
" maſs, which was thrice celebrated:
" after which he called for his helmet,
" the creſt of which was a crown of

* Men armed with helmets.

" gold: and then, without any hurry or " confuſion, he drew out his army in " order of battle; and I think, I may " venture to aſſert, that there was full as " great ſuperiority of ſkill on our ſide, " as of numbers on the other.

" The ground which our excellent ge- " neral had choſen was narrow, and a " range of woods on each ſide guarded " our flanks. This ſituation, ſo happy " for our ſmall army, was very diſad- " vantageous to the immenſe one of the " enemy; for, it rendering them inca- " pable of extending their line, that vaſt " body was ſo crouded in its ranks, that " many of the banners of their princes " were obliged to be furled and carried " off the field, there being no room to " diſplay them; and the men were or- " dered to ſhorten their lances, that they " might manage them more compactly.

" The French were drawn up in three " lines; and there was a prodigious diſ-

" pute

"pute among their great ones, who "ſhould lead the van; for as they were "certain the Engliſh muſt be routed at "the firſt onſet, all were eager to ſhare "the triumphs of the victory: at laſt it "was determined, that d'Albert ſhould "lead them, but all would be there with "him to partake the honour of beating "us, ſo that in the firſt line was all the "nobleſt blood of France.

"Whilſt they were buſied in ſettling "theſe matters, our king detached four "hundred lances to the wood on the right "flank of the enemy, and two and fifty "choice archers to that on their left, who "were not to begin the aſſault till a ſig-"nal given: and they wheeling off "behind the troops, and taking a com-"paſs round, were ſafely ſtationed with-"out being perceived by the enemy: in-"deed, they had ſo thorough a con-"tempt of us, and were ſo perfectly aſ-"ſured of victory, that they were not the "leaſt attentive to our movements.

"The

" The gallant Henry now appeared in " the center of his line, on a ſtately white " courſer, his armour bright and daz- " zling, and his golden crown flamed " in the ſun, which ſhone with unuſual " ſplendor on that glorious day. Four " royal banners were unfurled before him, " one was that of the Trinity, one of St. " George, one of St. Edward, and the " other the arms of England; a great " number of led horſes richly capariſon- " ed followed, and he was ſurrounded by " all his chief officers and noblemen: I " had the happineſs with a battalion of " archers to be ſtationed in the van, under " the king's uncle, the duke of York, " who had intreated he might lead it. Our " battalion were only in waiſtcoats; our " bows were very long, and by our ſide " we had a ſword, battle-axe, and dag- " ger: we had leather caps; ſome of our " archers wore ozier ones, with an iron " croſs on the top; and on that day we " carried the long wooden pikes, which " the king had ordered us on purpoſe.

" Thus, then, your honour, both ar-
" mies ſtood oppoſite to each other in
" order of battle; between us was a
" large plowed field, which having been
" ſoftened by a great deal of rain, was on
" the ſide of the French army, ſo poached
" up by the horſes which the ſervants
" and pages had led about all night, that
" it was a deep mire, which they could
" hardly drag their legs out of; and their
" men at arms with their heavy coats of
" armour, with greaves down to their
" feet, ſunk into it, ſo that they moved
" with great difficulty; and it was
" ſcarcely poſſible for them to march
" without breaking ranks.

" After ſtanding ſome time, and per-
" ceiving the French did not ſtir, the
" dauntleſs Henry reſolved to make the
" firſt onſet: he rode along the front of
" the battalions, and by his looks and
" words cheered our very ſouls: he made
" a long ſpeech; I forget what he ſaid,
" but

" but the effect was ſo great upon all the
" army, that we intreated that moment
" to be led towards the enemy. In this
" diſpoſition, he made us all kneel, to
" implore the aſſiſtance of God Almighty,
" and the good biſhop of Bangor gave us
" all his holy benediction. Your honours
" can ſcarcely conceive how theſe devout
" exerciſes, and this bleſſing, inſpired us:
" we roſe from our knees, our hearts
" light, our confidence firm, impatiently
" waiting the ſignal to advance. The
" king alighted from his horſe, deter-
" mining on foot to ſhare the fatigues and
" dangers of the day with the meaneſt
" ſoldier. Sir Thomas Erpingham gave
" the ſignal for battle, by throwing up
" his truncheon.

" The ſtandards were then commanded
" to be taken up, and the archers from
" the right to the left to advance. This
" we did with a ſhout, to nearly the mid-
" dle of the plain; where the king, fear-

" ing

"ing we ſhould be out of breath, order-
"ed us to halt, and plant our pikes. This
"we performed, and then with another
"ſhout, we advanced a few paces beyond
"them. This ſhout was anſwered by one
"from the archers in ambuſh; it was the
"general ſignal to ſhoot, and we all made
"ſuch good uſe of our bows, and drew
"them with ſuch ſtrength and good will,
"that our arrows a yard long, and deeply
"barbed, did great execution.

"This provoked the French: a thou-
"ſand ſelect horſe advanced furiouſly,
"plunging through the mire, but with-
"out any order, the hind moſt ranks preſ-
"ſing on the foremoſt, a confuſed heap of
"men! for their horſes, which had been
"ſtung by our arrows, were mad, and
"wholly ungovernable: on their ap-
"proach, we retired behind our pikes.

"Theſe horſemen, inclining their
"heads to avoid being dazzled by the
"ſun,

" ſun, which ſhone brightly on their
" faces, and to prevent alſo our arrows
" ſtriking through the vizors of their hel-
" mets, in the heat and eagerneſs of their
" advance, either not ſeeing our pikes,
" or diſregarding them, ſpurred their
" horſes ſo furiouſly againſt them, that
" they being ſet aſlope, and very ſharp,
" entered by dreadful wounds the breaſts
" of the beaſts: the creatures in pain,
" flounced and flung about, tumbled on
" the pikes, and impaled their riders by
" throwing them upon them.

" Good God, your honours, what a
" ſight was there! numbers of both
" horſes and men deeply gored; ſome
" entirely ſtruck through their bodies,
" ſome hanging by an arm or a thigh—
" the clattering of the armour of ſo many
" men tumbling in heaps—the clang of
" our arrows falling upon ſteel breaſt
" plates, helmets, and greaves—the cries
" of the wounded—the groans of the dy-
" ing—

" ing—altogether formed ſuch a ſight,
" and ſuch a ſound, as is impoſſible to be
" conceived by thoſe who have only been
" in common battles.

" Thus terribly ſhattered, the few that
" were left of this troop retreated in ſuch
" hurry and diſorder upon the main
" body, of which the foot being heavy
" armed, advanced ſlowly, that they
" broke all their order; and we ſeeing
" their ranks opened, threw away our
" bows, and with ſword or battle-axe in
" hand, haſtened to a cloſe fight, or ra-
" ther bloody execution; for though the
" men at arms repulſed us at firſt with
" great bravery, yet being diſordered
" and broken, they could not ſuſtain a
" ſecond charge: beſides, they had no
" room to move, but incumbered each
" other by their numbers, ſo that it is
" certain the multitude of them contri-
" buted to their own defeat; they were
" entirely routed, and the greateſt part
" of them ſlain.

" This

" This was the fate of the firſt line
" under d'Albert, who had reckoned up-
" on us as ſo eaſy a conqueſt: but
" though the conſtable, with a great
" number of officers was killed, the bat-
" tle was far from being decided, for the
" ſecond line, commanded by the duke
" of Alençon, ſtood firm and eager to
" engage. Our battalion was ordered to
" retire behind the main body, and form
" anew; and our glorious king led up
" the ſecond diviſion to the charge, who,
" animated by our ſucceſs, and the pre-
" ſence of the king, performed prodi-
" gies of valour. But who ſhall ſpeak
" the proweſs of the gallant Harry him-
" ſelf? in the conduct of war the firſt of
" generals, in action the moſt valorous
" of ſoldiers! His exceſs of courage made
" him too much hazard a life on which
" depended the fate of the whole army;
" yet the moſt timid caught fire at the
" example, and who could think of turn-
his back upon the enemy, when the
" king

"king levelled himself to the loweſt of "the ſoldiers, partook equally their fa- "tigue and their danger, and fought in "the front of his battalion as a common "man?

"His perſon thus expoſed, on whom "the enemy by this time found depend- "ed the fortune of the day, eighteen "French knights combined to kill him, "or periſh in the attempt. With ſword "in hand they hewed their way to the "place where he was fighting; one of "them with a battle-axe ſtruck him a "furious blow on the helmet, and in all "probability that ineſtimable life would "have fallen a ſacrifice to the horrible "aſſociation, had not in the moment "captain David Gam, that gallant "Welſhman, and two more of the ſame "country, ruſhed between, received the "wounds intended for their prince, and "glorioufly gave their lives for his.

"When

" When the king recovered the blow,
" he beheld them bleeding by his ſide,
" dying, but yet ſenſible; he had then
" but one way of teſtifying his gratitude,
" and he cheered their parting moments
" with the honour of knighthood—the
" *higheſt* honour a ſoldier can receive
" when it is the meed of valour.—
" Alas! ſaid he, my valiant preſervers!
" my ſoul is wrung with anguiſh, that
" this empty form is all the recompence
" which is in my power.

" This danger ſeemed to ſtimulate him
" to freſh exploits; he, with his brother
" Gloceſter at his ſide, charged the ene-
" my with redoubled fury; they plunged
" into the thickeſt of the battle, but found
" themſelves ſeparated from their troops,
" and the duke of Gloceſter was felled
" to the earth with a mace. The king,
" the moſt affectionate of brothers, co-
" vering him with his ſhield, ſuſtained
" the ſhock of a whole hoſt of enemies,

" when

" when the duke of York, who, with our
" battalion of archers, was again return-
" ed to the ſcene of action, came in that
" moment to his relief; and a fortunate
" moment it was, for in the inſtant we
" came up, the king had received a blow
" upon his head, which made him ſtag-
" ger and fall upon his knees; but he
" ſprang up, and laid the daring knight
" dead at his feet.

" Upon hearing of the king's danger,
" new fury ſeiſed the troops, and they ruſh-
" ed forward with ſo much impetuoſity,
" that the French ranks were every where
" broken, the men flying, and regard-
" leſs of their officers, who endeavoured,
" but in vain, to rally them. The duke
" of Alençon perceiving all loſt without
" a deſperate puſh, put himſelf at the
" head of a choſen band, and cutting his
" way to the king, exclaimed that he was
" the duke of Alençon, and in the ſame
" moment lifting up his ſword, he with
" a fu-

" a furious blow cleft in two the royal
" creſt of the helmet. Henry was not
" long ere he returned the rough ſaluta-
" tion, he brought the duke to the
" ground, and ſlew two of his followers.
" The king was eager to ſave the life of
" Alençon, but the ſoldiers were ſo en-
" raged that they would hear nothing,
" and cut him to pieces in a moment.

" Thus was the ſecond line routed;
" yet there was one line ſtill entire, and
" that diviſion far out-numbered the
" whole Engliſh army. Had they ad-
" vanced, they would probably have
" ſnatched the victory from us, for they
" had never been in action, were freſh
" and vigorous, whilſt our *whole* army
" had been for hours engaged, and were
" juſt fainting with fatigue. But it pleaſed
" the Almighty, whoſe ſuccour our king
" had implored, to make faint their hearts:
" they were intimidated by the fate
" of the two other lines, and the ſcene of

" blood before them; they refuſed to " obey the command of their generals, " and retired from the field."

The veteran pauſing for a little breath, Simon, who had not quite ſo much pleaſure in liſtening to the hiſtory of battles, as his old friend had in reciting them, thought the ſtory ſomewhat tedious, and reminded his gueſts of the time of night, which was beyond that to which Philip had been reſtricted; he remonſtrated againſt late hours, as prejudicial to all, but particularly injurious to invalids, and drew off his talkative companion to the room where he meant he ſhould ſleep. Our heroine retired to her little cabin, and left Philip to his repoſe.

CHAP. X.

THE favourite converſation of Philip was military achievements, and he had peculiar pleaſure in hearing recited the deeds of the warlike Henry; ſo that he equally gratified the old ſoldier and himſelf by the next day renewing the topic of the evening, and making the veteran fight over all his battles, and give the moſt minute account of every action he had witneſſed. But I muſt be excuſed particularizing a conference intereſting only to themſelves; for I confeſs myſelf of the ſame mind with Eleanor, who, tired of the ſubject, diſguſted with a continued ſcene of war and carnage, panted for nothing ſo much as the tranquil pleaſures of peace; and to relieve her ſpirits, propoſed a walk in the afternoon, imagining that,

that, as the country was now cleared of both armies, she was perfectly safe: and Philip, who liked no place when she was absent, having nearly exhausted the tales of the veteran, would accompany her.

The weather was frosty, clear, and cheerful; both enjoyed the freshness of the air, after being several days shut up in a little cottage; Philip thought himself much strengthened by it, and they prolonged their walk till the day was declining, when they returned.

Their path lay across the church-yard; and they had advanced to about the middle of it, when the sound of sobs and groans to their left hand engaged their attention; they looked round, and at some little distance descried a venerable figure, with long silver locks, prostrate on the ground.

They hastened towards him, supposing that he needed their assistance: but too

much immerſed in ſorrow to hear their footſteps, or heed their approach, they ſtood ſome time near him, unobſerved ſpectators of the frenzy of his grief, and Eleanor knew him for the unhappy father whoſe cottage ſhe had looked into after the battle.

He had thrown himſelf acroſs the grave of his ſon, was embracing paſſionately the damp earth, and kiſſing the green ſod: he then raiſed himſelf on his knees, the tears ſtreaming down his wrinkled face, his breaſt heaving with ſighs.—"Oh, my ſon!" he cried, "let theſe "bitter agonies expiate my guilt—let "theſe tears waſh away my ſin, unnatural "father as I am! oh, let theſe groans "from my torn heart compenſate for thy "dying ones—let me pay the immenſe "debt of pain, and then lay me down in "the ſame grave.—I will ſeek thee, my "ſon, in the earth—I will dig a paſſage "to thee whom they have cruelly buried

"from

"from me, and on thy poor mangled
"body—mangled by a *father*——O
"God! on thy poor mangled limbs will
"I offer up my worthleſs life."

He tore off the ſods which covered the grave, when Philip and Eleanor interpoſed, and with great difficulty prevented his proceeding. The humane and ſympathiſing ſoftneſs of Eleanor's manner, the harmony of her voice, and the divine arguments ſhe brought to conſole him, had at length their effect; ſhe perſuaded him to leave the place, and ſhe and Philip conducted him home, where they found his wretched wife weeping in complicated grief, and the unhappy young woman affianced to the ſon, ſinking under her woes, and with every appearance of ſoon following her lover to the grave.

Even the rugged boſom of Philip was affected at this melancholy ſcene: indeed,

his whole character, from the mild converſation of Eleanor, appeared ſoftened and humaniſed in her features, and the ſound of her voice ſo much reſembling the daughter of de Longueville, the obligation he was under to her, her ſuperlative merit, her amiable manners, even the circumſtance of her leaving Margaret, for the barbarous treatment of the duke of York (for of that Eleanor had acquainted him) all together bound her ſtrongly to his heart; he felt for her an enthuſiaſm of friendſhip, which could not ſupport the idea of ſeparation, which our heroine ſometimes ſuggeſted: "No, Jaſper," ſaid he, "we will *never* part. If "thou haſt no friends, no connections, "thou ſhalt ſuffer me to ſupply theſe to "thee, as far as I am able; for do I not "owe all to him who ſnatched me from "the grave? Thou ſhalt eat of my bread, "and drink of my cup—thou ſhalt, Jaſper, partake with me whatever fortune "the will of God ſends me."

Though

Though the heart of Eleanor did not beat responsive to his warm attachment, yet was her regard for him much heightened by his improving virtue: she knew not what course of life to pursue in preference to this; and she determined to continue with him for the present, till some more eligible situation might offer.

CHAP. XI.

THE time was expired when Eleanor might with all reaſon have expected the return of the young man from Grafton, and ſhe became uneaſy that no tidings of him had been received: unwilling to leave the village till ſhe heard the ſucceſs of his embaſſy, ſhe had to combat the impatience of Philip, whoſe health was nearly reſtored, and who was anxious to be gone: ſhe could not inform him of her real reaſons for ſtaying, for ſhe had carefully concealed the whole affair from him, which muſt have led to dangerous inquiries and ſurmiſes; ſhe would have perſuaded him to have left her, but that he would not hear of with patience.

It was a few evenings after the rencontre with the unhappy father, that as Philip

Philip and our heroine were again taking their walk, croſſing the highway, a man who was riding faſt, ſeeing Philip, ſtopt ſhort, ſurveyed him for a moment, then threw himſelf off his horſe, ran towards him with an exclamation of joyful ſurprize, and Philip immediately recognized a ſervant of his father's.

The man then acquainted him with the extreme anxiety St. Julian had been in ever ſince the battle, and that after the moſt diligent inquiries, learning no tidings of him, he had ſorrowfully concluded he was among the ſlain, or, perhaps, what was nearly as bad, a priſoner; for ſuch was the extreme cruelty exerciſed in the unnatural war on both ſides, that being taken priſoner, and being put to death, were nearly equivalent terms to people of any diſtinction.

From him they alſo learned the ſtate of the public affairs; he confirmed the ac-

count they had before received that the young duke of York had defeated the detachment ſent againſt him under Jaſper Tudor; had taken priſoner his father, Owen Tudor, the huſband of Catharine, the relict of Henry the fifth, and beheaded him. He added, that Margaret's own diviſion of the army, on its march to London had been met at St. Alban's by Warwick, over whom ſhe had been enabled to gain a complete victory, by the treachery of lord Lovelace. Henry, who accompanied Warwick, fell now into the hands of his own party, with lord Bonville, and ſir Thomas Kiriel, both of whom continued with him, after they found the fortune of the day was on the ſide of Lancaſter, at his own earneſt requeſt, he giving them the moſt ſolemn aſſurances of good treatment from the queen, in return for their attentive and benevolent behaviour to himſelf: but ſo little did Margaret reſpect the engagements of her huſband, that ſhe commanded

both

both their heads to be ſtruck off by the common hangman. That on preparing to continue her march towards London, ſhe found her progreſs impeded by the duke of York, who having advanced with his troops, and collected the remains of Warwick's army, appeared in great force againſt her: that finding his army greatly ſuperior to her own, ſhe had declined an engagement, and retreated once more towards the north; and that Edward was now on his full march to London, where every one expected he would be acknowledged king.

An ardent deſire of witneſſing the glory of his young patron, added to that of ending his father's anxieties, determined Philip to leave the village in the morning; nor could Eleanor reſiſt his eager ſolicitations to accompany him, though ſhe wiſhed to remain there till the young man's return from Graſton: horſes were provided, the ſervant carried her harp,

and ſhe performed her journey with perfect eaſe.

They reached London a few hours after Edward's army had entered it, and found every token of the moſt extravagant joy at that event, for the whole city was devoted to the houſe of York: it was with difficulty they made their way through crowds of the populace, who filled the air with acclamations of triumph. They went immediately to the houſe of the earl of Warwick, called Warwick's inn, where with that nobleman they found St. Julian.

The reception which St. Julian gave his ſon, can be much better portrayed by the imagination than by words. The firſt raptures were ſcarcely paſt, when Philip preſented the minſtrel, with a ſhort but very comprehenſive eulogium: and Eleanor, who had dreaded St. Julian's ſuſpicious and piercing eyes, was relieved by per-

perceiving that though he acknowledged in very high terms their obligation, he had very little attention for any object but his ſon, and that her features ſeemed to be unremarked by him.

Philip next preſented her to the noble earl, recounting at the ſame time her motive for leaving Margaret, with whom ſhe was in high favour, and had a comfortable eſtabliſhment. This information was ſufficient to enſure her the affection of the whole party; they made her minutely deſcribe the circumſtances of York's death, the particulars of which had not before with any certainty reached them. But Eleanor found them ſo irritated at her recital, that ſhe repented making it; for though ſhe deteſted Margaret, ſhe did not wiſh to ſtir up vengeance againſt her, as ſhe had great reverence for Henry, and a ſincere affection for his ſpirited and amiable ſon; and ſhe lamented that their fates were unavoidably connected with one,

one, who by the inhumanity of her conduct, muſt draw down upon her the judgement of Heaven.

The next morning all the chiefs of the York party ſat in council. No longer with-held by the prudent caution and moderation of the deceaſed York, they threw off all reſerve; and affecting to look upon the oppoſition of Margaret, as the act of Henry, by which he violated the ſtipulation of the parliament in his favour, and in ſo doing, by the adjuſtment of the two houſes in ſuch caſe, gave York an indiſputable right to aſcend the throne, they determined that Edward ſhould take immediate poſſeſſion of it.

To wait the moſt legal method by aſſembling the parliament, was to ſuffer the preſent ferment of the fluctuating multitude to ſubſide, and they wiſhed to have the appearance of the general concurrence of the people; the army was there-

therefore ordered to aſſemble in St. John's fields, whither alſo people of all ranks repaired.

At the head of his nobles and chiefs, on a fine prancing ſteed, richly capariſoned, the graceful heir of York made his entry, and placed himſelf in a ſituation conſpicuous to the whole multitude; while his partiſans, opening the way to the people's view of him, ranged themſelves behind and on each ſide.

Edward, then in the bloom of youth, was the handſomeſt and fineſt formed man in the kingdom; his air lofty, bold, intrepid; his manners courteous, affable, inſinuating; paſſionately adored by the women for his perſonal graces, not leſs ſo by the men for his warlike and enterpriſing ſpirit; the air was rent with ſhouts of applauſe, and bleſſings from every tongue were poured upon him.

The biſhop of Salisbury then in a long and eloquent ſpeech, calculated to awaken the deteſtation of the multitude againſt what he called the *uſurpation* and tyranny of the rival family, and to excite their admiration and affection towards the houſe of York; when he had raiſed their paſſions to the proper pitch, inquired, whether they would ſtill acknowledge Henry for their king. Groans, hiſſes, every mark of diſlike and diſapprobation, was the anſwer received.

The biſhop, then turning to the fine figure of Edward, and pointing him out to the populace, demanded, whether they would acknowledge *that* youth, the heir of the murdered York, for their ſovereign.

An univerſal ſhout of conſent and applauſe filled the air.

Edward gracefully bowed his thanks, aſed around his faſcinating charms, and

and attempted to ſpeak his gratitude; but his voice was drowned in the acclamations of the multitude: they were charmed with the effort, but their approbation was too noiſy and obſtreperous to ſuffer any to be heard but themſelves.

Edward then and his partiſans, the magiſtrates of the city, the nobility and people of diſtinction, with the biſhops, adjourned to Baynard's caſtle, the noble houſe of the York family in Thames ſtreet, and there all ratified in form the popular election: the evening concluded with the utmoſt feſtivity, and in the morning the new king was proclaimed with great pomp, by the title of Edward the fourth.

All now was feaſting and riotous joy. Thoſe ungovernable ſpirits, turbulent and ferocious in war, equally diſtinguiſhed themſelves by an unbridled indulgence of their paſſions in their bacchanalian revels; and the gentle and modeſt ſpirit of Elea-

Eleanor found the ſcenes of their pleaſures ſtill more diſguſting than thoſe of their animoſities; ſhe was conſtrained, under pretence of illneſs, to ſhut herſelf up in her chamber to avoid them; for in the houſe of the earl of Warwick ſhe was in the midſt of the higheſt exceſſes.

That mighty baron, who could diſpoſe of crowns, and overawe princes, lived with the retinue and ſtate of a monarch, ſurrounded, beſides his menial train, by a crowd of gentlemen, and the firſt military characters in the kingdom: ſix oxen were ſlain every morning for their breakfaſt; and he commanded, that at the numerous taverns round Warwick-inn, where the partiſans of York had taken up their reſidence, that every gentleman ſhould have as much of his meat, either boiled, or roaſt, as he could take away upon the point of his dagger. When he went out upon ſtate occaſions, ſix hundred ſervants attended him, in liveries

of

of fine ſcarlet cloth jackets, with the creſt of the Nevils, the bear and ragged ſtaff, embroidered in ſilver, on their backs and breaſts. His hoſpitality was ſo great, that at his various houſes and caſtles, forty thouſand men were daily fed at his expence.

His intereſt with all ranks of men became thus unbounded. But Warwick was not only rendered popular by his magnificent and princely ſpirit, but alſo by the amiableneſs of his manners: open and frank, his undaunted ſoul ſat upon his brow, and ſpoke with unqualified ſincerity from his lips; yet was there as much humanity as true bravury in his heart; as much affability as fearleſsneſs in his manner. His preſents were not only regarded for their intrinſic value, but diſplayed with pride as teſtimonies of the attention of a man whom all ſo highly venerated: his approbation was received with tranſport, for all knew he never ſpoke aught but his genuine ſentiments; and

and his ſlighteſt promiſe was deemed equal to the oaths of others, for Warwick would ſtir heaven and earth rather than falſify his word.

By this exalted character, Eleanor was beheld with an eye of favour: her compaſſion for York firſt introduced her to his notice; her converſation charmed him, and he liſtened delighted when to her harp ſhe ſang the mighty deeds of our forefathers. "This boy," ſaid he to Philip, one day when ſhe had juſt quitted the room, "is an amiable creature, "but not happily ſtationed; he is too "gentle, too tender, for the ſociety of "ſoldiers:—I have an inclination to beg "him of you, and ſend him into the "north to teach my daughters on the "harp. What ſay you, Philip? will "you yield him to me?"

"With pleaſure, my lord."

Eleanor

Eleanor was in raptures at the news; there was nothing ſhe longed for ſo much as to be again among her own ſex; and the intelligence which was juſt received of the queen's being afreſh in force in the north, accelerated that wiſhed event; for Edward and the earl of Warwick were preparing to meet her: it was propoſed that our heroine ſhould go with the army, and then be ſent forward to Weſtmorland, where the counteſs of Warwick and her daughters then reſided.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

AS the ſtay of Eleanor in the metropolis was to be very ſhort, Philip, who parted from her with infinite regret, ſacrificing his own inclinations to a regard for her happineſs, ſolicitous to give her as much pleaſure as poſſible, propoſed her ſeeing every thing in the city and its environs worthy of notice, and carried her himſelf to his favourite diverſion at the bear-garden in Southwark.

Suppoſing my fair reader never to have partaken that ſublime amuſement, for the gratification of her curioſity I will deſcribe it as I collect it from the words of an old author:

"Well, ſir, the bears were brought
rth into the court, and the dogs ſet to
them

" them to argue the point face to face.
" There were no lazy lookers on, but
" both ſides eager in argument: if the
" dog in pleading would pluck the bear
" by the throat, the bear with traverſe
" would claw him again by the ſcalp.
" This with fending and proving,
" ſcratching and biting, by plain tooth
" and nail, on one ſide and t'other,
" ſuch a loſs of blood and leather was
" there between them, as a month's lick-
" ing, I ween, will not recover, and yet
" they remained as far out as ever they
" were. It was ſport very pleaſant of
" theſe beaſts to ſee the bear with his
" pink eyes leering after his enemy's ap-
" proaches, the nimbleneſs and watch-
" fulneſs of the dog to take his advan-
" tage, and the force and experience of
" the bear to avoid his aſſaults. If he
" was bitten in one place, how he would
" ſhrink in another to get free: and if he
" was taken once, then what ſhift, with
" biting, with clawing, with roaring,

" with

" with toſſing, and tumbling, how he " would work to wind himſelf from " thence; and when he was looſe, to ſee " him ſhake his ears twice or thrice, " with the blood and ſlaver about his " fiznamy, was matter of goodly re- " lief."

As Philip was much occupied in the military preparations which were hurrying on with great expedition, he introduced Eleanor to the acquaintance of a benedictine monk, who promiſed to conduct her to thoſe places which were worthy her obſervation, particularly the churches and convents, and the ſhrines and relics of the ſaints.

He carried her firſt to the priory of St. Bartholomew, founded, as he informed her, by one of her own profeſſion, Rahere, the minſtrel of Henry the firſt. The monk told her a long ſtory of the wicked life of Rahere, and his converſion by a horrible

horrible dream, in which he was warned o make atonement for his evil deeds, by building this priory, and its church; there he laid his bones, and the benedictine pointed out to her the monument which was erected over them.

He next conducted her to St. Paul's church, in which were depoſited the remains of that renowned prince John of Gaunt, and his firſt wife Blanch; his immenſe ſpear and ſhield hanging as trophies on his monument. There Eleanor ſaw the high altar glittering with gold and gems, the gifts of various princes; and alſo the holy ſhrine of St. Erkenwald, to which innumerable devotees had performed pilgrimages, and where they had left tokens of their veneration in rich preſents. John of France, when priſoner in England, had offered to the ſhrine of this ſaint four baſons of ſolid gold.

"But, O my ſon!" cried the benedictine, "that thou wert here but in proper ſeaſon, to ſee the moſt jovial offering made to St. Paul, that ever was made to any ſaint! Twice in the year, a fat doe in winter, and a fat buck in ſummer, is brought by ſome of the family of ſir William de Baude to the church, where it is received upon the ſteps of the high altar by the dean and chapter, attired in their ſacred veſtments, and crowned with garlands of roſes. After being preſented in form upon the altar to the ſaint, the body of the doe is, by this holy company, ſent to the cook's to be dreſſed for their dinner; and the head being fixed upon a pole, is carried before the croſs in proceſſion round the church, till the cavalcade reach the weſt door, where ſtands the keeper, who immediately blows with his horn the death of the ſtag, and is anſwered by all the horns of the city; the enlivening ſounds of

which

" which muſt needs be very pleaſing to
" the ſaint. The keeper is then preſented
" with money for the dean and chapter,
" and a conſecrated loaf, with St. Paul's
" picture upon it, and diſmiſſed.

" Indeed," continued the loquacious benedictine, " you ſee London in the " very worſt time of the year for ſplen- " did ſhows : upon the converſion of St. " Paul, fifteen hundred tapers are lighted " up in the church, and fifteen hundred " poor people fed in the chapter-houſe- " yard. Upon Chriſtmas-day a boy " from St. Paul's ſchool is elected bi- " ſhop, who officiates that day as a pre- " late : all the ſcholars are obliged to at- " tend at the church to hear him preach ; " and they muſt each of them give him a " penny. But of all the diverſions which " London affords, none, in my opinion, " equal the myſteries—they are plays " made from ſome ſacred ſtory, and " acted at Chriſtmas, by the boys of St.

" Paul's; and at Whitſuntide, at St. " John's Clerkenwell, by all the pariſh " clerks. It is not eight years ago that " the laſt mentioned performed the crea- " tion of the world; it took up eight days, " and moſt of the nobility and gentry " of England were ſpectators. But I " have not ſhewn you the painting on " the chapter-houſe wall, the dance of " death, which is thought wonderfully " fine; there is a long train of all orders " of mankind, from the pope to the " beggar, with his partner death, ſha- " king his tremendous and warning " hour-glaſs."

Another day the benedictine took our heroine to view Weſtminſter-abbey, that beautiful church dedicated to St. Peter. As they paſſed the Strand, Eleanor admired the fine ſituation of the great men's houſes; which placed in a ſingle range, and open to the water, with each a gar- den down to the margin of the river, adorned

adorned with obelisks, statues, and every decoration which taste and wealth could give, added infinite beauty and magnificence to the scene.

The benedictine pointed out to her observation the memorial which Edward the first had erected, of the place where the body of his beautiful and affectionate queen Eleanor of Castile rested, in the way to its interment; it was called Charing-cross, and was a kind of obelisk, of an octagonal form, the upper stage ornamented with very fine statuary, eight beautiful female figures personifying the virtues of that princess; whose magnificent tomb the benedictine shewed our heroine when they reached the abbey: it was of the finest marble, in form of an altar, on which reclined the figure of the queen in copper, but gilt and burnished so highly, that it looked like solid gold. There Eleanor saw likewise the magnificent tomb of our third Edward, and his

queen Philippa; that of the imprudent and unfortunate Richard, and his firſt wife Anne; and alſo the coſtly one of our fifth Henry, on which was placed by his widow, Catharine of France, his image cut from heart of oak, and overlaid with the pureſt ſilver.

After viewing all the ſepulchral curioſities, the monk and our heroine having performed their devotions, were permitted to view and kiſs thoſe ſacred reliques which are depoſited in that holy place: there were a piece of the veil of the ever-bleſſed Virgin; and, encloſed in a ſmall chriſtal vaſe, ſeveral drops of milk from her ſacred breaſt: there was a whole blade-bone of the right-ſhoulder of St. Benedict, and half the left jaw-bone of St. Anaſtaſia, a thumb of St. Alphage, and the entire head of St. Maxalla.

Our adventureſs, as well as her compa-
g by this time conſiderably fa-
tigued,

tigued, the benedictine procured ſome refreſhment from an acquaintance in the cloiſters, and they ſat down upon a ſtone near one front of the church to reſt themſelves. The exquiſite beauty of this inimitable Gothic ſtructure attracted the extreme admiration of Eleanor, and ſhe aſked her conductor many queſtions concerning it. The monk was no niggard of his knowledge, and he readily acquainted her with as much of its hiſtory as his information reached.

"Where the church now ſtands," ſaid he, "my ſon, there ſtood in the days of "our idolatrous anceſtors, a temple to "Apollo; which, when chriſtianity be-"gan to dawn on the land, after a dark-"neſs which had overſpread it from our "Saxon conquerors, it pleaſed the Al-"mighty to throw down by an earth-"quake. Sebert, then king of the weſt "Saxons, had married a French prin-"ceſs; ſhe was a chriſtian, and indefa-

" tigable in her endeavours to convert
" her huſband: ſome tremendous cir-
" cumſtances which accompanied the de-
" molition of the temple, aided her pi-
" ous purpoſe; the king was baptiſed,
" and on the ſpot where ſtood the temple
" to the heathen deity, he erected one to
" the worſhip of the true divinity, and
" declared his intention of dedicating it
" to St. Peter. This mark of reſpect
" highly pleaſed the ſaint; it was the firſt
" compliment of the kind he had receiv-
" ed in England, and he determined to
" ſhew his ſatisfaction, by performing
" the ceremony of conſecrating it him-
" ſelf. When the church was finiſhed,
" therefore, he deſcended from heaven;
" but the night happening to be a very
" ſtormy one, and it being the firſt time
" of his viſiting England, he miſtook the
" ſide of the river on which the church
" was placed, and made his deſcent on
" the Surry ſide. This miſtake was for-
" unate for one Edric, a poor fiſher-
" man,

" man, whoſe cottage was near, for to
" him St. Peter diſcloſed himſelf; and
" he gladly undertook, though the ſtorm
" was great, and his boat a mere cockle-
" ſhell, to waft him acroſs the river.
" A hoſt of angels were in the church
" ready to receive the ſaint; they had il-
" luminated it with innumerable wax ta-
" pers, and Edric ſaw through the win-
" dows, a blaze of light brighter than
" the noon-day ſun. All due ceremonies
" were then performed, after which the
" angels flew back to heaven; but St.
" Peter choſe to reward Edric by return-
" ing with him in his boat acroſs the ri-
" ver, into which he ordered him to
" throw his nets; the man obeyed, and
" was aſtoniſhed at a wonderful draught
" of ſalmons. The ſaint then commend-
" ing his readineſs to oblige, told him
" this was a reward for it; and that he
" and his ſucceſſors ſhould never fail of
" ſuch a draught, if they would puncti-
" liouſly give every tenth ſalmon to the

" church they had juſt viſited. St. Peter
" then took his leave, after commanding
" him to go the next morning to the bi-
" ſhop of Melitus, to inform him that
" there was no farther need of conſecra-
" tion; and as a proof that he had him-
" ſelf ſpared the prelate the trouble, he
" would find in the church the drop-
" pings of the wax tapers, and the chriſm
" which had been uſed for the ſacred oil.
" There the good biſhop actually did
" find them, and diſplayed them to the
" aſtoniſhed king, who ordered that they
" ſhould be preſerved in precious veſſels,
" as memorials of the ſingular condeſcen-
" ſion of St. Peter. Unhappily the
" church was burnt down, and theſe ſa-
" cred reliques were deſtroyed with it, by
" thoſe impious invaders the Danes. It
" was re-erected by Edgar, under the di-
" rection of the chaſte St. Dunſtan. Fall-
" ing afterwards into decay, it was laſtly
" re-built by that pious and continent
" e, Edward the confeſſor, to whoſe
" wiſdom

" wiſdom England is indebted for the " compilation of its laws, and the ſanc- " tity of whoſe touch cured the diſtemper- " ed of the ſcrophula."

Having now reſted and refreſhed themſelves, the benedictine and Eleanor looked into Weſtminſter-hall, an immenſe room built by Richard the ſecond, who, after it was finiſhed, kept his Chriſtmas there in 1399, entertaining with his uſual profuſion ten thouſand people, by whom were devoured each day, twenty-eight oxen, and three hundred ſheep, beſides fowls, and other delicacies out of number.

Theſe viſits, as well as many others to different churches and convents, were made by Eleanor for the gratification of her curioſity; but there was one viſit ſhe wiſhed to make in conſequence of her vow on the night of her departure from Longueville caſtle. In the church of

Allhallows Barking, was an image of the bleſſed Virgin, ſo highly venerated, that pilgrimages were made to it from all parts of the kingdom, and an indulgence of forty days given to all thoſe who viſited it. It was erected by Edward the firſt, when prince, in conſequence of a viſion, admoniſhing him ſo to do; and giving him an aſſurance that if he had ſuch an image formed, and viſited it punctually, five times a year, he ſhould be victorious over all nations, particularly Scotland and Wales.

To this holy image of the Virgin, Eleanor determined to pay her vowed honours; the benedictine was again her conductor, and proſtrate at the feet of the conſecrated repreſentative, her heart ſent forth its grateful effuſion of prayer and praiſe to the divine original. The diamond croſs was preſented; and after going through all due forms, and rewarding

ing liberally the prieſts for their attendance, our heroine left the ſacred place, with a heart lightened by the conſciouſneſs of having performed a duty.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

EAGER to eſtabliſh his aſſumed title, by finally cruſhing the Lancaſtrian party, Edward, and his indefatigable friend, Warwick, were by this time ready to meet Margaret, who, though ſhe infuſed averſion and terror into the city of London, and, indeed, into all the ſouthern provinces by her cruelty, and the licence in which ſhe indulged her troops; yet on the northern, to which ſhe had returned, that expected licence and plunder, added to the univerſal rancour which pervaded all ranks of both parties againſt each other, which made them not only forget that their opponents were their [illegible], but taught them to regard [illegible] bittereſt enemies; that ſanc[illegible]e that gratified at once their avarice

avarice and revenge, brought multitudes to her ſtandard, and ſo quickly and powerfully recruited her army, that ſhe was as eager as Edward to meet in the field.

Impelled thus by one deſire, Margaret from the north, with thirty thouſand men, and Edward from London with forty thouſand, met each other at Touton, in Yorkſhire.

No one can be ignorant of the event of that deciſive day, ſo fatal to the houſe of Lancaſter. Long and bloody was the conteſt, thirty-ſix thouſand Engliſhmen, ſlain by their brethren, ſtrewed the plain of Touton with their dead bodies. The heads of the duke of York and the earl of Saliſbury were taken from the gates of York; but not to be outdone in horrible ſpectacles by the oppoſite party, they were replaced by others of diſtinguiſhed nobility.

Having

Having now nothing to apprehend from Margaret, who, with her ſon and Henry, were fled into Scotland, Edward determined to ſummon a parliament to ſettle his government; and in the interim, till it ſhould meet, he accepted the preſſing invitation of Warwick, to accompany him into Weſtmorland, on a viſit to his family.

With a grand retinue, Edward and his brothers, Gloceſter and Clarence; attended by St. Julian, Philip, and our heroine, left York with the earl of Warwick, and arrived at Malarſtang caſtle, where their reception befitted their high rank.

The counteſs of Warwick, though her beauty was now in its wane, remained graceful and amiable; her daughters were infinitely charming; nor did the fair Elizabeth Lucie, then on a viſit to the caſtle, yield to either of the young ladies in lovelineſs.

After

After paying every due honour to their amiable hoſteſs, the eyes of the three princes found irreſiſtible attractions in the younger part of the company; and it ſeemed in the choice each made, as if a parity of years was requiſite to form the ſympathy of love; for the duke of Gloceſter, then about ſeventeen, attached himſelf to the almoſt infantine charms of the lovely giddy Anne, the youngeſt daughter of Warwick; the duke of Clarence, who was about a year older, became deeply enamoured of the blooming Iſabel the eldeſt; whilſt the amorous and voluptuous Edward felt more inclination for the ripened beauties of Elizabeth.

Nor could the fair Elizabeth remain inſenſible to the charms of her royal lover, then in his twenty-ſecond year, and the handſomeſt man in England. Alas! ſhe knew not that thoſe charms had already been too ſeductive of the female heart: ſhe was ignorant that under that enchant-

enchanting ſoftneſs of addreſs, that bewitching tenderneſs of manner, lurked an unfeeling and cruel ſoul; that he ſpoke but to deceive; that his vows of eternal love were made and broken with equal facility.

George of Clarence yielded to his brother alone in beauty of perſon: but deficient in Edward's ſoftneſs of manners, he poſſeſſed more real tenderneſs of heart; he was leſs amiable, but he was more ſincere. He felt acutely; he was as little able to conceal as to repreſs his feelings; prudence ſhould ſometimes have taught him the one, and reaſon the other, but not poſſeſſing a ſuperabundant ſhare of either, he was generally impelled to action by the caprice of the moment; and the honeſty of his nature, the warmth of his paſſions, and the haſty deciſion of his judgement, rendered his conduct unſtable inconſiſtent, for he was conſtantly to be duped by the ſuperior artifice ers.

He

He was ſincerely in love with Iſabel; with tranſport perceived the paſſion reciprocal; and with all the honeſt openneſs of his character, made overtures to her father, who could form no other objection to the union than the extreme youth of the parties, and upon that account only was the marriage poſtponed, to the mortification of the impatient lover.

Hiſtorians have been copious in their deſcriptions of the perſon, and the character of Gloceſter: in his character it is impoſſible to be miſtaken, for that is ſufficiently elucidated by his actions. But it is with great reaſon doubted by many if his perſon was as diſguſting as is generally repreſented; and whether deteſtation of his heart, did not heighten every natural imperfection, and prejudice caricature a countenance not beautiful, and a ſhape void of grace, into an uglineſs of deformity infinitely beyond the truth.

He

He certainly was not near ſo handſome as his two elder brothers; for they reſembled their mother, who was the greateſt beauty of the age, as Richard did his father, who, though not remarkable for perſonal graces, was neither ugly nor deformed.

Early conſcious of his inferiority, and poſſeſſing from nature an underſtanding ſuperior to both, Richard ſought to diſtinguiſh himſelf by mental beauties: but unhappily poſſeſſing more judgement in diſcriminating what was amiable, than goodneſs of heart to impel him ſeriouſly to become ſo, he found it much eaſier to aſſume the appearance of virtue, than to acquire virtues; to wear an air of blunt frankneſs, than to be ſincere; to drop a tear on hearing a tale of diſtreſs, than to feel compaſſion for the unfortunate. He laughed and romped with the ſpirited and giddy Anne; and much more penetrating eyes than her's did not perceive under

der the appearance of careleſs and ſportive humour, a heart cold to all intereſts but his own, and torn by every malevolent paſſion.

Yet hypocrite as he was in other reſpects, he was ſincere in his love for Anne; ſuch love as hearts like his could feel—ſelfiſh—ſuch as the epicure poſſeſſes for a delicious morſel. His love remained latent in his ſoul amidſt the predominance of ambition, and was at laſt gratified after the death of her firſt huſband, the ſon of Henry, whom Richard and his brothers cruelly murdered. But his paſſion ſatiated, ſelf-intereſt, ever the predominant principle, becoming the enemy of Anne, ſhe fell a ſacrifice to his endeavours to ſtrengthen his tottering throne by a marriage with his niece, Edward's eldeſt daughter. That Anne felt an early predilection for Gloceſter, can alone account for her accepting him as a huſband under all the circumſtances which ſhould have

have forbidden an union. So difficult, perhaps impoſſible is it, to eradicate from the heart the early impreſſions made there by the paſſions.

The moſt noble and ſincere of men, the frank and open-hearted Warwick, fond of the progeny of his friend, and alive to their intereſt, careſſed them all with unbounded affection; little ſuſpecting that the eldeſt meditated the ſeduction of his niece; and unable to foreſee, that the younger would plunge into the deepeſt miſery his two beloved daughters. Happy blindneſs of futurity!—but for thee, how would the felicity of the preſent moment be ſwallowed up in the bitter anticipation of future evils!

In this deſirable ignorance, mutually pleaſed and pleaſing, the hours glided ſwiftly over the heads of Warwick and his royal gueſts; and buſineſs, faction, war, were forgotten in the charming re-

treat. The ſpring was forward and lovely; they ſometimes rambled through the gardens and woods, ſometimes walked to the neighbouring villages, ſometimes made excurſions on horſeback into the adjacent country, and in the evening they liſtened to the melodious voice of our minſtrel, or danced to the ſound of a variety of muſical inſtruments.

But all in this ſociety were not happy alike: Philip would often bemoan to our heroine in the confidence of friendſhip, his hapleſs love; bitterly regret the flight of Eleanor, and generouſly vow, that if he could diſcover her, his intention was to re-inſtate her in the honours of her family, and leave her without conſtraint to her own determination, to reward or neglect his diſintereſted affection.

But far different ſhe found was the conduct of St. Julian: ſhe diſcovered that he had ſolicited and obtained of the king a con-

a confirmation of his father's grant to him of the wardſhip of Eleanor, a reiterated command to take Philip as her huſband, enabling him to aſſume the dignity of her family; or in caſe ſhe was diſcovered to be dead, St. Julian was empowered to ſeize her domain.

Theſe were arbitrary proceedings, but they were lawleſs times; and Eleanor found, unleſs ſhe could determine to marry Philip, it behoved her to be more careful than ever of diſcovery. But though he had much advanced himſelf in her eſteem, her affection for him was not yet ſufficient to overcome the averſion ſhe felt for his father, and ſhe determined to remain in her preſent ſituation, which was now grown tolerably comfortable; for as ſhe became more known by her frequent converſations with the different parts of this ſociety, they diſcovered, that admirable as were her muſical talents, they were ſtill leſs extraordinary than her mental

mental accompliſhments; that the moſt lively and ſparkling wit was united to the moſt nicely diſcriminating judgement, and an information beyond the promiſe of her years. They were charmed alſo with her elegant manners, and the propriety and modeſty of her conduct. She now was always deſired to make one in their parties, and no pleaſure was thought perfect unleſs ſhe partook it.

But among the ladies, no one diſtinguiſhed her ſo much as lady Elizabeth Lucie, who being herſelf a proficient in muſic, better underſtood her merit in that ſcience; and whoſe underſtanding, ſuperior to, and more mature than her companions, enabled her more readily to diſcern the exquiſite beauties of Eleanor's mind.

Eleanor's heart was not deficient in a reciprocal affection for the charming Lucie, who was as amiable in mind as

lovely in perſon; and whoſe conduct would have been as faultleſs as her face, had not one baneful paſſion—ambition—intruded into her heart. The idea of being queen captivated her ſoul, as much as the accompliſhments of the gallant and gay Edward; and the dazzling image blinded and led aſtray her better reaſon.

That inſidious youth, amidſt the moſt ardent vows of everlaſting paſſion, the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations of honourable love, never failed to inculcate the abſolute neceſſity of keeping their mutual attachment from the knowledge of Warwick, who was extremely ſolicitous that he ſhould, by a foreign powerful alliance, ſtrengthen himſelf on the throne; and Edward declared that he dared not, in the preſent unſettled ſtate of public affairs, run counter to the advice of a perſon, who, by his own abilities, his vaſt popularity, and extenſive intereſt, was

as

as able to dethrone him, as to raiſe him to royalty.

Theſe plauſible reaſons were ſufficient to ſilence the pride of Elizabeth, which at firſt revolted at liſtening to a clandeſtine addreſs; and as to prevent their frequent meetings from being perceived by the reſt of the family, it was neceſſary to have the aſſiſtance of ſome one whom they could truſt, Elizabeth's partiality to our heroine induced her to make her the confidante.

Eleanor, unacquainted with the licentious principles of Edward, believing his profeſſions of honourable love ſincere for ſo charming a woman, who would have given luſtre to the diadem of an empire; and thinking his reaſons prudent for wiſhing it to remain a ſecret at preſent: ſuppoſing alſo, that though the diſintereſted and generous ſpirit of Warwick would prefer the political benefit of Ed-

ward to any accumulation of honour on his own family, yet that he would not be mortally offended at ſeeing his niece on the throne, ſhe determined that no good offices of her's ſhould be wanting toward realiſing the ſplendid proſperity of her friend, in whom ſhe intended to repoſe a reciprocal confidence, and by her intereſt with Edward, cruſh the graſping ſchemes of St. Julian, and procure herſelf to be re-inſtated in her family fortune, and honours.

For the purpoſe of teaching the young ladies on the harp, without interruption, Eleanor had a ſmall, but exceedingly pleaſant room aſſigned her, apart from the family, which had a door into a private garden. Elizabeth, who played incomparably on the guiterne, expreſſed a wiſh to lady Warwick that the minſtrel might be permitted to teach her on the harp. In conſequence of this requeſt, at a certain hour, when the greateſt part of the family

family were engaged, and the young ladies had received their leſſons, Elizabeth viſited our heroine, and Edward having procured the key which opened a little gate out of that garden into a grove, met her there: the door into the houſe was then locked, to prevent the intruſion of impertinent viſitors, and Eleanor walking in the garden left the lovers to themſelves.

But though not in their immediate preſence, yet as ſhe was never far diſtant, the minſtrel was an effectual check to the impetuoſity of Edward; he was therefore obliged to be content with the advantages he had gained, and wait for an opportunity more favourable to his wiſhes: he had preſſed lady Warwick to bring her blooming family to court; and amidſt its gaieties and amuſements, he hoped to divert the watchful eyes which ſurrounded Elizabeth.

The lovers had met ſeveral times in this manner with perfect ſecurity; but on the day preceding that on which the royal brothers were to return to London, lady Warwick, wanting to ſay ſomething to Elizabeth, and knowing it was her hour of viſiting the minſtrel, went to Eleanor's apartment to ſpeak to her there. She was ſurpriſed at not being able to open the door; ſhe rapt, and heard a buſtle within, which evidently increaſed on her calling loud to have it opened: indeed, her voice had ſo alarmed Eleanor's gueſts, that they ſcarcely knew what they did. Edward flew into the garden, called to Eleanor to join lady Elizabeth, and eſcaped at the gate; whilſt Elizabeth, with trembling fingers, hampered, inſtead of turning back the lock, and her trepidation was the greater, as lady Warwick expreſſed her impatience in a pretty high voice.

At length the door was opened; but nothing could exceed the rage of the countess at the suspicious circumstance, and the extreme confusion evident on Elizabeth's and Eleanor's countenances, which she with the utmost appearance of reason construed into conscious guilt: she poured on them a torrent of reproaches. Elizabeth threw herself at her feet in tears, and with a thousand asseverations of innocence, endeavoured to exculpate herself and her companion. The countess a little softened, and sensible of the dangers of disclosing so disgraceful an affair, appeared to believe her, but strictly forbade any future visits, under the penalty of discovering the matter to the earl.

This was a promise which Elizabeth readily made, for the absence of Edward would render the pretence of seeing the minstrel unnecessary; and the rest of the day was so occupied in preparation

for the departure of her lord, that lady Warwick had no leiſure to reflect upon what at the moment gave her ſo much pain.

The three royal brothers the next morning, with almoſt equal reluctance, took their ſlow leave of the fair inhabitants of Malmſtang caſtle, accompanied by their noble hoſt, St. Julian, and his ſon: the two latter purpoſing, after giving Edward their voice in parliament, to retire to Northamptonſhire, and commence a ſtrict inquiry after Eleanor: they had procured a mandate from the king to ſearch any convent where it was ſuſpected ſhe was concealed, giving as a reaſon for the violation of that ſanctuary, that ſhe was in the wardſhip of the crown, to which ſhe had proved herſelf refractory, and alſo a command to the abbeſs of ſuch convent, to give her up to the royal authority.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

AFTER the departure of her royal guests, the countess of Warwick had leisure to reflect on the strange incident of the preceding day. The circumstance of two young people, of different sexes, being locked up together in a private apartment, and the confusion apparent in their countenances and manner, appeared to her in so suspicious a light, that though she affected to believe their asseverations of innocence, she thought it of the utmost importance to watch them with the closest attention; though at the same time she put on an air of confidence in both, as if she had entirely forgotten the affair.

This apparent good humour and freedom from distrust had its intended effect;

the young people became unguarded, and ſhe perceived a ſecret intelligence in their eyes and manner. The letters from the king to Elizabeth were to be ſent under cover to the minſtrel. A courier had arrived late one evening, and Eleanor did not receive her letters till the family were ſeparated for the night. She knew Elizabeth's impatience, but there was no opportunity of ſeeing her in private, and ſhe dared not make a ſervant the meſſenger; Eleanor was therefore obliged to whiſper the intelligence to the fair Lucie, when they aſſembled to breakfaſt, and ſlip the letter into her hand, when ſhe thought the general attention otherwiſe engaged.

Neither the whiſper nor the action were unperceived by the watchful counteſs; prompt and deciſive, ſhe in the inſtant formed her reſolution, without permitting her indignation, by a word or look, to be viſible.

Impa-

Impatient to read her letter, Elizabeth retired, the moment breakfast was ended. The countess then withdrew, and sent one of the officers of the household, on whose fidelity she could rely, to the minstrel's apartment, to signify to her, that the countess had no farther need of her services, and commanded her to depart the castle immediately. By this man, notwithstanding her resentment, the generosity of the countess sent a handsome present of money for the immediate subsistance of our heroine, but strictly ordered him not to lose sight of her, till she was some way from the castle gates, and not to suffer her to see or speak to any one of the family.

Her orders were obeyed with scrupulous exactness; and without any of the family suspecting her dismission, much less the cause of it, the astonished and grieved Eleanor, who an hour before thought herself secure of an honourable

aſylum, till ſhe was enabled to claim from St. Julian her own fortune, now found herſelf once more an outcaſt from ſociety, condemned to wander in a wild and mountainous country, very thinly inhabited, where ſhe knew not a ſingle creature out of the family ſhe had been with, and was totally unacquainted with the ſituation of the towns and villages.

It was about noon in a cloudleſs day in June, when Eleanor left the caſtle. The height and fierceneſs of the ſun induced her, as ſhe had no particular plan, to direct her ſteps to that part of the country which promiſed her in the diſtant view moſt ſhade. After a long fatiguing walk over a burning plain, ſhe reached the confines of an immenſe wood; and throwing herſelf at the foot of a ſpreading oak, ruminated on the conduct it would be beſt for her to purſue.

After

After much thinking, she found that her ſituation could be connected with no regular ſyſtem; that a diſturbed, unſettled, wandering life ſeemed deſtined to be her portion. She appeared to be thrown upon the hand of chance, and her heart involuntarily lifted itſelf in prayer to that great Being, who governs chance and accident as inſtruments of his own good providence; who has promiſed to be the father of the orphan, and the guardian of thoſe who have none to help them.

The heat increaſing, the deep umbrage of the foreſt invited her into its cloſeſt paths; where, delighted with that refreſhing ſhade, which ſhut out the ſcorching ſun-beams, and caſt the pleaſing gloom of evening over the glaring hours of mid-day; liſtening to the interrupted reſponſive notes of the birds, who, like herſelf, had taken ſhelter from the heat, and were hopping in the under-

wood,

wood, ſhe walked on for ſome time, ſuppoſing that the path ſhe was in, though intricate and winding, would at length conduct her through; and as the wood was very extenſive, to a part of the country diſtant from that by which ſhe entered.

After having preſſed on thus a long while, the ſtrength of her limbs began to fail: ſhe found herſelf faint with hunger, as well as fatigue. She was ſtill in the mid-wood ſhade, without perceiving any end to her walk; for the path ſeemed to wind back upon itſelf. She ſighed and blamed her own imprudence, which, to avoid the inconvenience of the heat, had engaged her in a toilſome, uncertain, and perhaps dangerous peregrination; for ſhe reflected, that either in this vaſt wood ſhe was ſhut out from the world, without means of recruiting her exhauſted ſtrength, to enable her to trace its windings; or if it had inhabitants, they

were

were probably of a kind moſt to be ſhunned, ruffians—banditti.—"Thus," ſaid ſhe to herſelf, "will it ever be, "when we giddily yield to the impulſe "of the preſent moment, and inconſide- "rately ſnatch at preſent pleaſures, "without reflecting on their fatal conſe- "quences!"

Still ſhe walked forward, though ſlowly, and almoſt deſpairing of reaching the end of the wood, when a beautiful glade which the path croſſed, invited her to repoſe her weary limbs on the dark green graſs. The cool ſequeſtered ſcenery of the glade was charming; and the cooings of a ſtock-dove at a little diſtance ſoothed her melancholy by its plaintive ſounds. She liſtened—it ceaſed for a time; then, as if ſtruck by ſome cruel remembrance, in a louder tone it reſumed its plaint, and made the air reſound with its note of ſorrow.

A note

A note ſo reſponſive to her own feelings, affected Eleanor: "Poor bird!" ſaid ſhe, "hath ſome cruel archer ren-"dered thee, like me, ſolitary and "friendleſs?"

She touched her harp—its ſtrings vibrated to the ſenſations that oppreſſed her heart; their melody was ſolemn, plaintive, affecting, whilſt her fine eyes ſwimming in tears were lifted to heaven.—Suddenly the ruſtling of leaves diſturbed this luxury of grief; and to her unſpeakable conſternation, ſhe ſaw a man breaking his way to her, through the thick-woven branches of the trees.

Her fright, however, was in a few moments diſſipated, on a nearer view of its object, which was much better calculated to inſpire veneration than terror—it was a hermit, who had been liſtening to [illegible]aſſioned ſounds of her harp, and whoſe

whoſe curioſity impelled him to a nearer view.

He greeted her in the gentleſt terms, inquired what chance had conducted her to that unfrequented ſpot; and on hearing the reaſons which Eleanor thought proper to aſſign, offered her an aſylum in his hermitage, as long as ſhe choſe to reſide there: he ſaid it had ſeveral cells, one of which was occupied by a hermit much older than himſelf.

A hermitage had few charms for Eleanor, but any thing was better than ſleeping in the foreſt, and ſhe with expreſſions of gratitude, accepted the good father's offer and guidance; he aſſuring her that his reſidence was not more than two miles diſtance, though he confeſſed the path was rugged and uncouth; and after this little reſt, ſhe thought herſelf very able to undertake this farther walk.

By

By a ſtraiter path, than that which Eleanor had taken, they ſoon found themſelves on the outſide of the wood, but nothing could be more frightful and deſolate than the appearance of the country which they entered: our heroine ſaw nothing before her but lofty and deſart mountains, or rather rocks, thrown together as it were by the hand of diſcord, and laid waſte by the piercing blaſts of the north; their brown heads loſt in the clouds, and their ſides, to appearance, inacceſſible to all but the winged tribe.

The hermit conducted Eleanor, who was wondering how they were to ſcale the declivities, to a kind of path which ran along the ſide of an almoſt perpendicular mountain: above them enormous projections of ragged rock hung over their heads, and threatened to cruſh them: far below a rapid torrent tumbled headlong over its rocky bed, and foaming, bellowing, excited a terror in the

ſoul

ſoul which language cannot deſcribe. Not a ſingle ſhrub, not a blade of graſs by its verdure enlivened the dreary waſte; but the whole mountain appeared one vaſt blaſted rock.

With palpitating heart our trembling miniſtrel followed the ſteps of the hermit, wiſhing every moment ſhe had remained in the foreſt, and again blaming her own inconſideration; but it was now too late to recede, and the father often turned to exhort her to courage. Courage, however, is never the effect of reaſon; and if it were, the terrors of the path would have far outweighed all the good father's arguments. Eleanor was juſt ſinking with extreme fatigue, and increaſing horrors, when by a ſudden winding, ſhe found herſelf entering a valley, which by the contraſt of the way which led to it, appeared an elyſium.

This

This charming valley was about a mile in diameter, and of a circular form; ſurrounded by ſtupendous mountains, whoſe tops towards the north and eaſt were loſt in the clouds, as if to ſhut from it the keen and blighting winds of thoſe points; but towards the ſouth and weſt, their heads were lowered, by which the enlivening beams of the ſun had free admittance; and the ſides of theſe mountains by their ſingular contraſt heightened the beauty of the ſcenery.

Thoſe, the aſpect of whoſe declivities were denied the all-prolific ray, exhibited a picture of deſolation, a dreary waſte of naked rocks, and tremendous precipices; yet had this ſcene its peculiar decoration; from about the middle of one diviſion of the mountain, trickled a rill of the pureſt water, which, meandring in a labyrinth of a thouſand windings down the ſides, and accumulating in its courſe, at length reached the bottom, where, gliding

gliding away in a ſilvery ſtream, it about the middle of the valley ſpread itſelf into a beautiful lake.

From another part of the mountain, a ſheet of water was precipitated from the top, in an impetuous torrent down the ſteep; and falling from rock to rock, flaſhing, whitening, foaming, formed a caſcade infinitely ſublime, which daſhed on the rocky bottom, roſe high in a miſt, and then falling again in a perpetual ſhower, its raging wave ran off amidſt the ſhaggy rocks and ſcattered fragments, with maddening rapidity, till it reached the lake, and then paſſed with fury through that placid ſtream, into the paſſage between the mountains, by which our adventureſs entered.

But the ſides of theſe mountains which hung towards the ſun, were ſmiling with a lovely verdure, and glowing with a thouſand tints of blooming ſhrubs and climb-

climbers; while among them the honey-ſuckle and ſweet briar perfumed the air with their ſweets. The valley carpeted with the richeſt emerald, the borders of the lake adorned with a profuſion of aquatic plants and flowers, the whole ſcenery ſo delightful, ſo unexpected, its beauties ſo heightened by its dreary and tremendous entrance, ſo aſtoniſhed Eleanor, that ſhe uttered a loud exclamation of mingled pleaſure and ſurpriſe, which gladdened the heart of her benevolent conductor.

"I am charmed," ſaid he, "at perceiving you ſo ſenſible of the beauties "of this ſequeſtered ſpot. Shut out from "the world and its ſolicitudes, I and my "companion reſide here in primeval "ſimplicity. The ſides of the rock are "ſcoopt into large receſſes, and caverns, "which afford habitations not incommodious; the lake affords us fiſh, which "would delight the epicure; its pure

"ſtream

"ſtream a beverage more wholeſome "than the vintage; and the luxuriant "ſoil of the valley many pleaſant and "healthful vegetables.—But here comes "my friend: he is without doubt much "ſurpriſed to ſee I have a companion, "let me lead you towards him." He did ſo; and addreſſing him by the name of father Anthony, preſented the minſtrel, with a ſhort hiſtory of their meeting.

Father Anthony ſcarcely heard him, for he was intently gazing on the face of Eleanor. "Have I not ſeen thee be-"fore?" he ſaid, at laſt; "Didſt thou "not loſe thyſelf in Northumberland, "near the ſea, in company with the ſon "of Henry?"

"I did," replied Eleanor, "looking "in her turn upon him: and ſurely you "are the good father to whoſe hoſpitality "we were ſo much indebted."

"I aſ-

" I aſſuredly am; and I account it a " happineſs. I will not inquire what " misfortune can have driven one ſo " young from the haunts of cheerful ſo- " ciety, but moſt welcome ſhalt thou be " to partake with brother Mathias and " myſelf the pleaſures of this peaceful " vale."

" Our young companion is fatigued," ſaid father Mathias, " perhaps hungry " alſo; let us conduct him where he may " reſt his feeble and trembling limbs, " and I will dreſs ſome newly caught fiſh " for his refreſhment."

Eleanor was uſhered into a hollow, or rather a dent in the verdant part of the mountain, which the honey-ſuckle and ſweet-briar over hanging in front, had wildly formed into a bower, and nature lined with its own vegetable arras, the green ſoft moſs. At a little diſtance glittered the chryſtal lake: oppoſite tum-

bled

bled the foaming cascade: the sun was setting, and a soft and pleasing gloom spread itself over the landscape.

Whilst father Mathias was preparing our heroine's supper in a cave near, which served as a kitchen, she conversed with father Anthony; for weary and exhausted as she was, she thought it right to endeavour by a cheerful countenance and animated conversation, to require the benevolence of her venerable companions, and testify her gratitude for their hospitality. Yet the attention with which the father beheld her, the eager avidity with which he caught her words, and the distracted manner in which he answered, surprised her greatly; and she felt relieved when father Mathias appeared with some very well-boiled fish.

By the time the supper was ended, the dazzling light of day had given place to the mild beam of the moon, which rising

above the tops of the mountains, threw a ſoftened radiance over the beautiful ſcenery of the valley: a thouſand nightingales were warbling their evening ſong, and the fathers ſolicited the minſtrel to join her harp with the melodious concert of nature.

Eleanor readily complied, for ſhe felt that it would be much more pleaſing to her to play, than converſe, where ſhe was nearly the only ſpeaker; where ſhe was attended to with an avidity which embarraſſed her; and where ſhe evidently awakened in both their minds ſome diſagreeable remembrances, for their anſwers were generally accompanied with ſighs; and it was more than once, that father Anthony had ſtarted from his ſeat, as if ſtruck by ſome ſudden pang, walked a few haſty turns in the valley, and then reſumed his former poſture.

She ſwept her fingers over the harp—a thouſand reverberations from the hollow of the rocks, like ſo many other inſtruments broke on the ear, and deſtroyed the harmony. She joined her voice, but its ſound, as well as ſweetneſs, was loſt in the clamour of the echoes, and deafened more than delighted: ſhe was conſtrained to deſiſt, and ſhe entreated to be ſhewn to a place of repoſe.

She was conducted by her venerable hoſt to a cavern, where was a bed of ſoft and fragrant moſs; and both giving her a fervent benediction, took their leave.

But her lodging-room and couch had, in her ideas, much more of novelty than pleaſure or convenience to recommend them. The door could ſcarcely have ſecured her from the intruſion of any animals that inhabited the mountains; much leſs, as there was no faſtening, could it exclude her companions, and ſhe dread-

ed ſleeping, leſt their curioſity, of which they ſeemed to poſſeſs ſuch abundant ſhare, ſhould bring them to her bed-ſide ere ſhe woke in the morning; beſides this, the materials of which her bed was compoſed, by no means invited her to undreſs: ſhe threw herſelf in her cloaths upon it, becauſe unable any longer to ſit up; but had immediately in her imagination a million of inſects crawling upon her.

When ſhe endeavoured to exclude theſe unpleaſing ideas, thoſe of more importance, more painful, took their place—the hermits were venerable, and ſeeming good men; yet their extreme attention, their embarraſſing gaze, diſpleaſed her—it might be exceſs of their hoſpitality, their ardent wiſh to ſerve her, yet ſhe would have preferred the moſt ruſtic and unceremonious civility. The more ſhe reflected on their manner, the more repugnance ſhe felt to remain with them: there

there was ſomething ſhe thought in their eyes and air, particularly in thoſe of father Mathias, which was at variance with their character.—"Perhaps," ſaid ſhe, after long thinking, "they are banditti "diſguiſed in this holy habit."——She ſtarted up at this ſuppoſition; a thouſand tumultuous imaginations ſucceeded: their manner led her to ſuppoſe they ſuſpected her to be a woman—this thought was deciſive of her conduct—ſhe reſolved to leave this dangerous place immediately—the path by the edge of the precipice, and overhanging the torrent, was no longer tremendous.

Suppoſing the hermits were by this time retired to their cells, which ſhe knew were ſo ſituated that ſhe had not to paſs them, ſhe tied on her harp, and ſtepping ſoftly a little beyond the entrance of the cavern, ſhe hearkened attentively, but could hear no ſound except

the wild dash of the water. With quick and light steps she passed the valley, and reached the winding path through the mountain; the broad and cloudless moon affording her a light as sufficient for her peregrination as the meridian sun. She re-passed the formidable way without terror, and again found herself in the skirts of the forest, which she did not chuse to enter, lest she should again lose herself in its winding paths, but traced along its edge, so delighted at having escaped all the dangers which her imagination had painted in the valley, that she scarcely thought of the real ones of her houseless, and friendless situation.

At length she perceived a great road cross her path, which she concluded led to some town. Pleased to find herself once more in the haunts of social beings, and by this time extremely fatigued, she stept

ſtept among a cluſter of cloſe-growing trees by the road ſide, and laying herſelf down on the graſs, inſenſibly fell into a profound ſleep.

CHAP. XV.

THE ſun was advanced ſome height, ere Eleanor ſtarted from her ſingular couch by the road ſide. Her dreſs was ſoon adjuſted, but the ſound of a horſe's feet alarmed her, and ſhe ſquatted again into her place, as a hare into its form.

The horſe drew ſlowly nearer. His rider ſeiſed either with a ſudden fit of devotion, or a deſire to entertain himſelf, began in a deep baſs voice to roar the matin ſong to the virgin.

Pleaſed with a ſubject which was in uniſon with her own heart, Eleanor nicely touched her harp in accompaniment; the man who had a better ear than voice, ſurpriſed and charmed, ſtopped; and after

after the hymn was ended, entered into converſation.

After having replied to his queſtions in what manner ſhe thought proper, ſhe ſoon learned that he was an itinerant eccleſiaſtic; a travelling vender of pardons and indulgencies from the pope. He took care to inform her that he was but lately returned from a pilgrimage to Rome; and as a token of it, ſhewed her a miniature picture of Chriſt, which was ſewn into his cap, and which he aſſured her, was an exact copy of one which was miraculouſly imprinted on a handkerchief, and preſerved in St. Peter's church. He alſo informed her, that the bag he carried ſo carefully before him, contained pardons and indulgences, which he had himſelf imported freſh and new from the pope's own hands; as alſo a great number of moſt valuable and ſacred reliques. He ſaid he was going to a large town a few miles off, where he meant to preach

the next day, which was Sunday, and that if ſhe was going the ſame way, he ſhould be glad of her company.

Eleanor not knowing how otherwiſe to diſpoſe of herſelf, and unacquainted with the country, accepted his offer; he rode ſlowly on, and ſhe walked by the horſe's ſide, while they beguiled in cheerful converſation the tedious way.

Eleanor by this intercourſe of ſentiment, diſcovered him to be a man of ſtrong underſtanding, who had ſeen much of the world, was well verſed in its cuſtoms, perfectly acquainted with mankind, with an open and keen eye to their foibles and prejudices; of which upon a farther knowledge of him ſhe perceived, he could with conſummate art avail himſelf for his own emolument.

As the day advanced, our adventurers found they ſtood in need of ſome refreſhment:

ment: a large farm-houſe was in ſight, to which they bent their courſe; father Simon aſſuring our heroine of a welcome under his auſpices.

The itinerant alighted from his horſe, tied it to a poſt, took his bag in his hand, and walked into the houſe, followed by Eleanor, who touched her harp as ſhe entered the door; they found the family ſitting round a large table, plentifully ſpread with homely viands, but good of their kind, and cleanly in their appearance.

After a little flouriſh with the harp, by which the minſtrel announced herſelf, father Simon in a long harangue made known *his* profeſſion, and exhorted them with much energy to take this happy opportunity of purging their ſouls from all the guilt they had ever contracted; or if they could afford to purchaſe ſuch indul-

gences, all they ſhould contract for ſeveral years to come.

The effect of this ſpeech was very great upon its hearers: the morſel half-lifted to the mouth, ſtopt in its courſe, and hovered in mid-air; whilſt the mouth which was opened to receive it, continued in that poſition, as if to take in the more deſirable food of promiſe which the father offered them, and their eyes, opened to the utmoſt extent of their lids, gazed with ſtaring wonder.

At length they were deſired to ſit down and partake the meal; and after it was finiſhed, whilſt Eleanor entertained the children with her harp, father Simon found an excellent market for his pardons: all were deſirous of waſhing their conſciences free from offence, and the ſervants as well as their principals crowded round him, exchanging for his precious merchandize all the money they poſſeſſed;

ſed: the women alſo giving beſides their ſmall caſh, the few valuables they had, ſuch as broches, thumb-rings, &c. and and he ſold a reliquee to the farmer which was to preſerve his ſheep from the rot, for a weighty conſideration.

He placed with ſolemnity all their names in his tablets, which he aſſured them was a ſacred regiſter, and would infallibly be copied into the book of life: thus laden with the ſpoils of the credulous family, he took his leave, as alſo did Eleanor.

But no ſooner were they out of ſight, than father Simon took his tablets from his boſom, and with a triumphant laugh at his own ingenuity, rubbed out every one of their names. Having ſwallowed ſeveral horns of the farmer's ale, which baniſhed all reſerve, he converſed with the moſt unreſtrained freedom; and Eleanor, who was diſguſted at his hypo-

criſy,

criſy, when he was amongſt his penitents, was now greatly ſhocked at his avowed impiety.

The country was thinly inhabited, and the ſun was declining before they reached another houſe, and that was only a poor cottage, where the father of a numerous family lay ſick, and every thing round wore an aſpect of extreme want. The rapacity of the itinerant was here likely to remain unſatisfied, but yet as the moſt abject generally hold *ſomething* they deem precious in reſerve, which the deepeſt diſtreſs can ſcarcely wring from them, he did not deſpair; but ſeating himſelf by the bed-ſide of the poor ſick man, whoſe ſpirits were lowered at once by want and diſeaſe, he preached on the heinous nature of ſin, enumerating its various kinds, and in his catalogue placing even the natural infirmities of human nature: he then expatiated very copiouſly, and painted very vividly, the dreadful

puniſh-

punishments which awaited it in another life. And having thus awakened the remorse of the wretched object before him, and alarmed his fears, he next set before him the blessed effects of those indulgences and absolutions he had to dispose of, in so strong a light, that the poor man was convinced he must be eternally miserable without one.

But what was to be done?—money he had none—goods none that were portable—his children were crying to him for bread, and these precious absolutions were not to be had gratis. "Given with-"out *some* compensation," said father Simon, extolling the compassion and tenderness of his heart;—"given for "nothing," said he, with a deep sigh, "it would avail you nothing; such is "the decree of his holiness the pope; "otherwise, God knows my pity for you, "you should freely have my whole "stock, much as they cost me; for "what

"what are the riches of this tranſitory "world, what all its moſt ſplendid poſ- "ſeſſions when compared with the ever- "laſting happineſs of one precious "ſoul?"

A melancholy ſilence enſued. "Alas! "father," ſobbing, ſaid the woman, "what is to be done to ſave my dear "huſband?"

"You have a wedding ring on your "finger."

Her eyes filled with tears, ſhe looked mournfully on the poor ſick man, "It "was the pledge," ſaid ſhe, with a deep ſigh, "of my huſband's love in his hap- "pier days."

"And thou giveſt it now," ſaid the father, "as a proof of thy conſtant affec- "tion in the days of his wretchedneſs."

She

She put her thumb and her finger upon it, and drew it ſlowly and reluctantly from its place.

The poor man eagerly eyed her—he ſunk on his pillow with a deep ſigh; "Alas! my wife," he cried, "what is the "poſſeſſion of any earthly good, when "put in the ſcale againſt eternal happi-"neſs?"

She ſnatched it haſtily off, and was giving it to the father, when Eleanor with her ſpread hand put it back.—"Put "it on," ſhe ſaid, "and take this mo-"ney, which will procure peace to your "huſband, and proviſion for your chil-"dren."

The woman eyed the gift which ſhe held open in her hand, with eager tranſport; ſhe fell at the feet of the minſtrel—but her rapture was too great for words, ſhe even in that moment of joy forgot her

her ring—then recollecting it, ſhe thruſt it on her finger, with an expreſſion on her countenance of ſuch unutterable pleaſure, as delighted the benevolent ſoul of her benefactreſs. She gave a piece of money to the father, heard with ecſtacy the abſolution and benediction pronounced on her huſband, kiſſed with unaffected fervour the holy reliques; and then expreſſed ſo much impatience to be gone, to procure ſomething comfortable for her huſband, who much needed it, and ſome food for her half-ſtarved children, that our adventurers, who did not wiſh to detain her, finding ſhe was going to the ſame town where father Simon meant to preach the next day, determined ſhe ſhould ſerve them as a guide thither, and taking a haſty leave of the good man, they all departed.

Eleanor found ſome difficulty in keeping pace with the hurried ſteps of their guide, in the two miles they had to walk.

At

At length they reached the town, and the woman conducted them to the beſt inn, where Eleanor calling for ſome wine, made her drink a little herſelf, and gave her a bottle for her huſband, together with ſome cordial confections which the hoſteſs procured.

The hoſteſs of this inn was a widow, a jolly roſy dame, whoſe leering eye gave no ſublime ideas of her modeſty. Father Simon ogled her with great freedom, and ſhe was by no means backward in returning the compliment: ſupper was ſerved to our adventurers, and Eleanor being greatly fatigued, ſoon retired to her apartment.

The next morning being Sunday, they all roſe pretty early; father Simon prepared himſelf to preach with ſpirit, by ſome hearty draughts of ſtrong ale, after his cold chine; ſo that if he was not abſolutely

ſolutely intoxicated, it muſt be confeſſed he was very near it.

Eleanor followed him to church, accompanied by the hoſteſs, who in her Sunday habiliments made no ordinary appearance. Her gown and her ſtockings were of ſcarlet; her ſhoes ſharply piqued at the toes, and laced high on the ancles; her *chemiſe* as white as milk, was plaited into a black ſilk collar, and faſtened at the breaſt with a broch almoſt as large as a buckler; her broad girdle was of ſtriped ſilk, at which hung a leather purſe, with ſilk taſſels, and ornamented with braſs in the ſhape of pearls; her head-cloaths were large and full, with a black fillet and tapes; and ſhe wore a large hat to preſerve her complexion from the weather.

Behind her walked her tapſter, in his beſt cloaths, and red ſtockings; and deſirous of being particularly well dreſſed, he

he wore his tippet bound about his head inſtead of a cap.

Father Simon aſcended the pulpit without the ceremony of aſking the leave of he pariſh prieſt; but as a juſtification of his intruſion, he immediately diſplayed his bulls, with the ſeal of the pope on them: thus ſhewing his warrant for preaching, that, as he ſaid, no man, either prieſt or lay-man, might diſturb him in Chriſt's holy work.

Prayers being ended, and the offertory ſung, he ſtood forth in the pulpit to give the ſermon.

After a grand flouriſh of bulls and popes, biſhops and cardinals, patriarchs and St. Peter, interlarded with ſome latin ſentences, to make the people ſtare at his learning, he began a warm declamation againſt thoſe two crying and deteſtable ſins, avarice and intemperance;

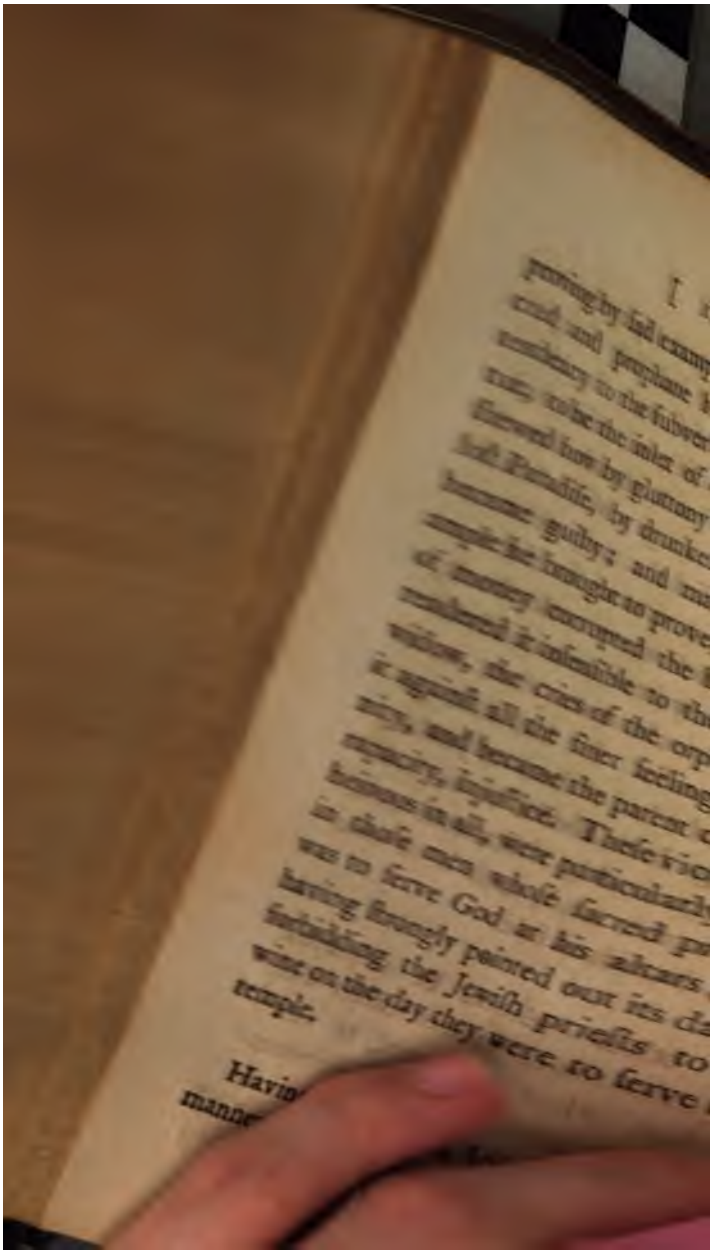
proving by ſad examples, both from ſacred and prophane hiſtory, their fatal tendency to the ſubverſion of every virtue, to be the inlet of every vice. He ſhewed how by gluttony our firſt parents loſt Paradiſe, by drunkenneſs, how Lot became guilty; and many a dire example he brought to prove, how the love of money corrupted the human heart, rendered it inſenſible to the tears of the widow, the cries of the orphan, ſteeled it againſt all the finer feelings of humanity, and became the parent of violence, rapacity, injuſtice. Theſe vices, he ſaid, heinous in all, were particularly atrocious in thoſe men whoſe ſacred profeſſion it was to ſerve God at his altars; Moſes having ſtrongly pointed out its danger by forbidding the Jewiſh prieſts to drink wine on the day they were to ſerve in the temple.

Having declaimed a long time in this manner, with all the energy and ſpirit his

ale

ale had inſpired, he next diſplayed thoſe precious reliques he had juſt brought from Rome. The firſt was a ſhoulder-bone of one of thoſe goats, which had been the wages of Jacob, when he ſerved Laban after his marriage; which ſhoulder-bone, poſſeſſed the moſt uſeful as well as wonderful virtues; for if it was ſteeped in any well where cattle drank, it would not only cure them of all diſtempers, but would render them moſt abundantly prolific. He had ſand gathered from the bed of the river Jordan, which having been bleſſed by his holineſs the pope, would, if ſcattered over the moſt barren land, cauſe it to bear crops of an hundred fold.

Many other reliques he diſplayed equally miraculous in their effects with theſe; but what he ſeemed to value himſelf moſt upon, and which he recommended with moſt eloquence to his congregation, was part of a black leather ſhoe,



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ſhoe, which had once been the property of Mary Magdalen; of which if a ſmall piece was boiled in broth, and eaten by the moſt jealous man living, he would ceaſe from that moment to have any ſuſpicion of his wife; nor would he feel any uneaſineſs, though her piety ſought by frequent confeſſions to enſure peace to her ſoul, and it *might* ſo happen that her confeſſor was young and handſome.

Having expatiated very diffuſively on theſe miraculous fragments, he exhorted his hearers with great energy to make their offerings abundant; but forbidding at the ſame time all thoſe to approach, whoſe conſciences were burdened with crimes ſo enormous that they dared not confeſs them in ſhrift: above all, he forbade the approach of any unmarried woman, who knew herſelf guilty of impurity; or any married man or woman, who had committed the moſt heinous and crying ſin of adultery.

All

All heard the good man's caution, but never was there a more innocent aſſembly; for the whole congregation, man and woman, approached in their turns, made their offerings, and ſaluted the reliques: nor was the ineſtimable ſhoe of Mary Magdalen forgotten. It ſhould ſeem as if the huſbands of that town were much given to jealouſy, for father Simon ſnipt it out in ſuch abundance, that but a ſmall part remained for him to carry back to his inn. This wonderful ſhoe however had, for the benefit of the world, the aſtoniſhing property of renovating itſelf, of which he took care to inform all who were preſent; ſo that if any woman who had been ſo unfortunate as to miſs this opportunity of ridding her huſband of the moſt unquiet and tormenting of all paſſions, would attend him at his inn, ſhe might there furniſh herſelf with this invaluable ſpecific. At the ſame time he renewed his caution, that none ſhould apply to him for that, or any other re-

friendſhip, for a fortnight, in which the fever continued with great violence. Nor was ſhe without medical aſſiſtance, for the confeſſor of the convent acted as phyſician; and his medicines, conſiſting of ſuch ſimples as their own garden afforded, were faithfully prepared and adminiſtered by apothecary Catharine.

The fever at length left our heroine, whether driven away by the ſkill of the doctor, or the youth and natural excellent conſtitution of the patient, remained problematical: but its ravages had reduced her to ſuch a ſtate of extreme debility, that it was the general opinion ſhe could not live; and father Martin reſuming his own function, thought it neceſſary ſhe ſhould be confeſſed, and receive the laſt ſacrament.

With her confeſſion of the few ſins with which her imagination, rather than her conſcience, was oppreſſed, and among which

which her partiality to her father's murderer ſtood the moſt eminently conſpicuous, for ſhe felt that even in death ſhe loved his memory, and cheriſhed his idea. Eleanor gave, both to the confeſſor and the nuns, an epitome of the hiſtory of her life. Then taking the holy ſacrament with the trueſt devotion, in all its affecting forms, ſhe, like a wearied traveller, arrived in proſpect of his place of reſt, ſunk down upon her pillow with a placid ſmile, in tranquil expectation of that moment, which, diſencumbering her ſoul from its mortal companion, ſhould enable it to wing its way to the regions of eternal joy.

The perfect ſerenity of her mind communicated its kindly influence to her frame; ſhe fell inſenſibly into a quiet and undiſturbed ſleep, in which ſhe continued ſome hours; and awoke in a ſtate of convaleſcence.